



*Beach Escape to
Costa Rica*

TRAVELER

TRAVEL WITH PASSION AND PURPOSE

NATGEOTRAVEL.COM
OCTOBER 2015

PEOPLE-
WATCHING
IN PARIS

AUSTIN:
DEEP IN THE
ART OF TEXAS

101
REASONS
TO GET
EXCITED
ABOUT
TRAVEL

*(#72: Norway's fjords will
make you jump for joy)*

VISIT...

LANZAROTE
Caliente.COM



Follow your desire.



Scottsdale

ScottsdaleLuxuryExperience.com / 800.839.9567



Contents

FOLLOW US AND SHARE



VOLUME 32, NUMBER 6



46

Gawker in Paris

The sacred pastime of people-watching still has a prime place in the French capital.

BY TARA ISABELLA BURTON
PHOTOGRAPHS BY
PETER TURNLEY

38

The Power of Austin

Live music mecca, honky-tonk watering hole, bohemian start-up city—the Texas capital has no limits.

BY DAVID WHITLEY
PHOTOGRAPHS BY
DAN WESTERGREN

58

101 Reasons to Travel Now

Why get up and go? Let us count the ways, from can't-miss festivals to Instagram-worthy eats.

BY AMY ALPIO AND
JENNIFER BARGER

74

La Vida Local in Costa Rica

A New York City family takes a vacation from its routines in coastal, calm Mal Pais.

BY JOHANNA BERKMAN
PHOTOGRAPHS BY
KRISTA ROSSOW

82

New Jersey's Garden Variety

The author veers off the highway in her home state to find farm stands, forests, and night stars.

BY JENNA SCHNUER
PHOTOGRAPHS BY
JOHN KERNICK

PETER TURNLEY

BECAUSE SOMEDAY

I want to capture fish who
are trying to capture me.



Alert:
Fidelity Meeting



Attachment:
Retirement Plan



Reminder:
Today

SAVE

**Every someday needs a planSM.
Get a clear view of yours when you move your old 401(k).**

Move your old 401(k) to a Fidelity Rollover IRA,
and get control over your own personal someday.



**Fidelity.com/rollover
800.FIDELITY**

**Be sure to consider all your available options and the applicable fees and features of each before moving your retirement assets.
Keep in mind that investing involves risk. The value of your investment will fluctuate over time and you may gain or lose money.**

The trademarks and/or service marks appearing above are the property of FMR LLC and may be registered.

Fidelity Brokerage Services LLC, Member NYSE, SIPC. © 2015 FMR LLC. All rights reserved. 709195.9.0



CHIEF CONTENT OFFICER
Chris Johns

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Maggie Zackowitz

EXECUTIVE EDITOR Norie Quintos
CREATIVE DIRECTOR Jerry Sealy
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY Daniel R. Westergren
SENIOR EDITOR Jayne Wise
FEATURES EDITOR Amy Alipio
ASSOCIATE EDITOR Susan O'Keefe
ASSISTANT EDITOR Hannah Sheinberg
COPY EDITOR Judy Burke
DEPUTY ART DIRECTOR Leigh V. Borghesani
ASSOCIATE ART DIRECTOR Michele Chu
SENIOR PHOTO EDITOR Carol Enquist
DESIGN & PHOTO ASSISTANT Kathryn Naumiec
CHIEF RESEARCHER Marilyn Terrell
RESEARCHERS Christine Blau, Monika Joshi
PRODUCTION DIRECTOR Kathie Gartrell
ASSISTANT TO THE EDITOR Kevin Kunitake

DIGITAL DIRECTOR Andrea Leitch
ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS Rebecca Davis, Megan Heltzel
SENIOR PHOTO PRODUCER Sarah Polger
ASSOCIATE PHOTO PRODUCER Tyler Metcalfe
EDITOR, INTELLIGENT TRAVEL Leslie Trew Magraw

ADVENTURE EDITOR Mary Anne Potts
EDITORS AT LARGE Costas Christ, Christopher Elliott,
Don George, George W. Stone
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS Annie Fitzsimmons,
Katie Knorovsky, Margaret Loftus,
Joyce Maynard, Peter McBride,
Andrew McCarthy, Andrew Nelson,
Robert Reid

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS
Massimo Bassano, Sisse Brimberg,
Macduff Everton, Justin Guariglia,
Aaron Huey, Catherine Karnow,
Bob Krist, Michael Melford,
Palani Mohan, Chris Rainier,
Jim Richardson, Susan Seubert, Dave Yoder

PRODUCTION & MANUFACTURING
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT Phillip L. Schlosser
DIRECTOR Gregory Storer
MANUFACTURING MANAGER Robert L. Barr
PRODUCTION MANAGER Callie Norton
IMAGING TECHNICIAN Andrew Jaacks

PUBLICIST Heather Wyatt
ngtraveler@hwyattpr.com; 212-610-5535
MARKET RESEARCH MANAGER Tracy Hamilton Stone

PUBLISHER & VICE PRESIDENT
Kimberly Connaghan

VICE PRESIDENT, DIGITAL
John Campbell

ADVERTISING NORTH AMERICA SALES OFFICES
161 Sixth Ave., New York, N.Y. 10013;
212-610-5500, Fax: 212-741-0463

NEW YORK BRAND MANAGERS
Tammy Abraham *tabraham@ngs.org*; Allison Davis
aldavis@ngs.org; Hilary Halstead *hhalstea@ngs.org*;
Alexandra Hartz *ahartz@ngs.org*; Danielle Nagy
dnagy@ngs.org **BRAND MANAGER** Laura Robertson
larobert@ngs.org **SOUTHEAST CARIBBEAN BRAND MANAGER**
Maria Coyne *mecoyne@mecoyneinc.com*; 305-756-1086
MIDWEST BRAND MANAGER Bill Graff *bgraff@ngs.org*
DETROIT BRAND MANAGER Karen Sarris *ksarris@ngs.org*;
248-358-4360 **ROCKY MOUNTAIN STATES** Scribner Media
Services, Tanya Scribner *tanya@scribmedia.com*;
940-387-7711 **WEST COAST Brand Manager/Travel**
Kevin Carr *kcarr@ngs.org* **BRAND MANAGER** Eric Josten
ejosten@ngs.org **HAWAII DESTINATION MARKETING HAWAII**
Debbie Anderson *debbieanderson@dmhawaii.com*;
808-739-2200 **CANADA PUBLICITAS APR** Françoise
Chalifour *francoise.chalifour@publicitas.com*; 416-363-
1388 **MEXICO & CENTRAL AMERICA** Adelina Carpenter
acarpent@prodigy.net.mx; 011-52-555-543-7677

MAGAZINE PUBLISHING ADMINISTRATION
1145 17th St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036-4688

BUSINESS & FINANCE MAGAZINE PUBLISHING
VICE PRESIDENT Margaret Schmidt
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE John Patermaster
SENIOR BUDGET MANAGER Jeannette Kimmel
BUSINESS SPECIALIST Allison Bradshaw
RIGHTS CLEARANCE SPECIALIST Brad Engborg
ASSOCIATE FINANCIAL ANALYST Erica Ellis
ADVERTISING RESEARCH DIRECTOR Jeffrey Johnson
CONTRACTS MANAGER Cindy Ramroop 202-775-6781

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, CONSUMER & MEMBER MARKETING
Elizabeth M. Safford
VICE PRESIDENT, RETAIL SALES John MacKethan
CIRCULATION DIRECTOR Mark Viola
DIRECTOR, MARKETING & EVENTS
Pandora Todd *ptodd@ngs.org*; 202-775-6795
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, INTERNATIONAL MEDIA
Yulia P. Boyle *yboyle@ngs.org*
DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE PUBLISHING
Ariel Deiacol-Lohr *adeiacol@ngs.org*

HEADQUARTERS

1145 17th St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036-4688
Offices in Washington, D.C. • Mexico City • London • Amsterdam • Barcelona • Hamburg • Milan • Moscow • Prague
Warsaw • Bucharest • Tel Aviv • Beijing • Jakarta • Mumbai • Sydney

SUBSCRIPTIONS

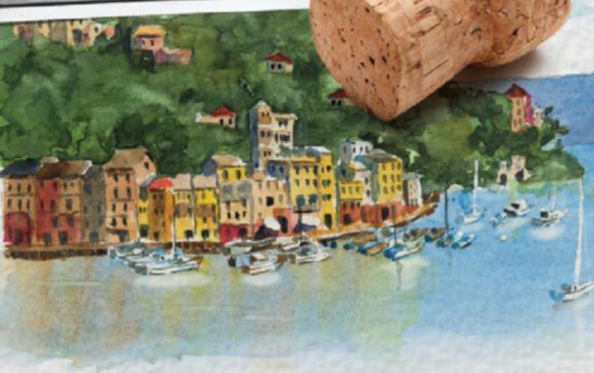
Published eight times a year. U.S., \$19.95 a year; Canada, \$24.95 (U.S. funds); elsewhere, \$32.95 (U.S. funds).
For subscription questions, visit *www.ngtservice.com* or call 1-800-NGS-LINE (647-5463).
To subscribe online, visit *www.nationalgeographic.com*.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

PRESIDENT AND CEO Gary E. Knell
SCIENCE AND EXPLORATION Terry D. Garcia **MEDIA** Declan Moore **EDUCATION** Melina Gerosa Bellows
EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT: LEGAL AND INTERNATIONAL PUBLISHING Terry Adamson **CHIEF OF STAFF** Tara Bunch
COMMUNICATIONS Betty Hudson **CONTENT** Chris Johns **NG STUDIOS** Brooke Runnette
TALENT AND DIVERSITY Thomas A. Sabló **OPERATIONS** Tracie A. Winbigler
BOARD OF TRUSTEES CHAIRMAN John Fahey
CHIEF DEVELOPMENT OFFICER David Bennett
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS Claudia Malley
CHAIRMAN EMERITUS Gilbert M. Grosvenor
EXPLORERS-IN-RESIDENCE Robert Ballard, Lee Berger, James Cameron, Wade Davis, Jared Diamond, Sylvia Earle, J. Michael
Pay, Beverly Joubert, Dereck Joubert, Louise Leakey, Meave Leakey, Johan Reinhard, Enric Sala, Paul Sereno, Spencer Wells

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF
THE *WORLD'S BEST*
STORIES

AS TOLD BY THE WORLD'S BEST
GUESTS.



THE ALL INCLUSIVE



This year we celebrate an important anniversary that started with a vision to elevate luxury cruising, service and adventure. A vision that came to life in the remarkable stories we created with you, our loyal and inspiring guests. Twenty-five years later, we're proud to say Crystal Cruises has been voted the World's Best more than any other cruise line, hotel or resort in history. We invite you to join us for the next twenty-five years of storytelling.

BEGIN A NEW STORY™

1-888-755-8353

CALL FOR A FREE BROCHURE
CRYSTALCRUISES.COM/BROCHURE



21 years



20 years

EUROPE | NEW ENGLAND & CANADA | ALASKA | AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND | PANAMA CANAL | SOUTH PACIFIC & ASIA | SOUTH AMERICA | WORLD CRUISE

©2015 Crystal Cruises, LLC. Ships' registry: The Bahamas.



MILAN | YOUR SHOT | ANTHONY BOURDAIN | MINNEAPOLIS | BATIK

Notebook

A JOURNAL FOR THE SMART TRAVELER

Return to the Gilded Age

Why you'll soon be pining for the splendor and the decadence of a New York City grand hotel

SEE CHECKING IN



From contemplation to captivity

Experience true ecotourism in a visionary country that outlaws hunting and believes that only a camera should ever be aimed at a lion.

Discover our award-winning ecolodges on an amazing wildlife safari dedicated to protecting nature. **Botswana: adventure – redefined**

Enjoy the emptiness of the Makgadikgadi with a self drive camping safari at Lekubu Island, and then the luxury of a guided night safari in abundant Chobe National Park and the chance to witness lion cubs at play. Truly a land of contrasts.

www.botswanatourism.co.bw

1000

The Okavango Delta
has been declared
the 1000th UNESCO
World Heritage site



botswana
tourism



CHECKING IN THE LURE OF THE GRAND HOTEL

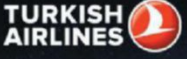
Downton Abbey fans may soon abandon their Anglophilia and fall in love with fin de siècle New York. *Downton* creator Julian Fellowes is penning a miniseries set during the late 19th century, when money multiplied in the hands of American industrialists and the wealthy embraced travel. The hotel boom that resulted originated in New York City, with the Astors feuding to outdo one another. Thanks to preservation efforts at grande dame hotels, you can experience the glamour of their heyday, albeit with 21st-century comfort. Choose from the Knickerbocker (John Jacob Astor IV), St. Regis (same Astor), Plaza, and Peninsula (formerly Gotham) hotels. Mark Twain's disdain for the pageantry of the period may have labeled the Gilded Age. But with their endurance, these original "ladies" have the last word. —JEAN NEWMAN GLOCK

New York City's elegant style (clockwise from top): doorknob from the Plaza, Waldorf-Astoria lobby, room at the St. Regis



TOM SIBLEY/AGEFOTOSTOCK (KNOB), ALEX SEGRE/ALAMY (LOBBY), THE ST. REGIS NEW YORK (CHAISELONGUE)

goturkey.com



Şanlıurfa, Turkey

#HomeOf

GÖBEKLİ TEPE

Some prehistoric cultures worshipped celestial objects while others idolized animals. The reason why man started to worship at all is still a mystery, but the where and the when have finally been answered. It all began in Göbekli Tepe, the 12,000 year-old temple that altered our understanding of civilization. Discover Turkey, home of Göbekli Tepe. Be our guest!



HOME OF



GÖBEKLİ TEPE

EXPLORE ►



Our signature big blue skies, grand landscapes and unforgettable natural experiences are waiting (not so patiently) for you. It's time for you to explore Western Montana's Glacier Country.

Free Travel Guide · 800.338.5072 · #GlacierMT · GlacierMT.com



It's here, among our millions of acres, that you can find experiences and adventures that are distinctly Montana. Within our boundaries are wonders like Glacier National Park, the jagged peaks of the Mission Mountains, the teal-colored waters of the Middle Fork of the Flathead River and the expansive backcountry of the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex. There is plenty of charm in our eclectic cities and small communities.

IT'S TIME TO EXPLORE WESTERN MONTANA'S GLACIER COUNTRY

Visitors will find **Missoula** filled with an endless array of arts and entertainment including galleries, museums, a vibrant music scene, dance and theatre. For the outdoor enthusiast, Missoula offers world-class kayaking, fly-fishing, stand up paddle boarding, river surfing, rafting and tubing – all in the heart of downtown. And you'll discover plenty of culinary experiences to end your day. From locally sourced, epicurean delights to a budding food truck culture, there truly is something for everyone. Sample the abundance of handcrafted beers at eight local breweries, award-winning wine at two wineries or spirited cocktails at three unique distilleries. | destinationmissoula.com

Whitefish offers a stunning backdrop as the western larch trees change from green to gold. Visitors can experience breathtaking scenery while hiking and mountain biking on the Whitefish Trail during the seasonal transition. After a stimulating outdoor adventure, you'll enjoy connecting with local artisans as you stroll downtown browsing the exquisite and varied galleries and local shops. There is plenty of opportunity to continue the celebration at the diverse local eateries, many offering farm-to-table meals featuring the season's harvest. | explorewhitefish.com

Left to right:
Fun in the water at Brennan's Wave
in Missoula. Hiking near Whitefish in
Glacier National Park. Crowds gather at
Caras Park in Missoula for live music.
Kayaking Bowman Lake near Whitefish.



It's all waiting for you in Western Montana's Glacier Country.

Plan your visit to Montana today, where you're sure to create lasting memories and find unforgettable Montana moments. | glaciermt.com

M. Crow & Co. caters to customers in the small town of Lostine, Oregon.



SHOP

STOCKED WITH NOSTALGIA

America's general stores find strength in their past.

“When people walk in the door, their pace always seems to slow,” says Sheri Moretz, official historian of the original, 132-year-old Mast General Store in tiny Valle Crucis, North Carolina. Tucked in rural hamlets and along country roads, the American general store was a central part of daily life long before the arrival of the automobile. Farmers and locals gathered to load up on dry goods and share news with neighbors. Today, people wander the worn wood floors in search of timeless souvenirs.

Some of these Americana institutions have turned into post offices and museums listed on the National Register of Historic Places, while others entice patrons by adding bakeries, delis, and live music. Texas’s Gruene General Store lures visitors with its Norman Rockwell-style soda fountain, five-cent coffee, and penny candy. Good Hart in northern Michigan ships homemade pot pies, complete with a heart-shaped vent cut out in the middle. M. Crow & Co. in Lostine, Oregon, features handcrafted items—from cutting boards to “marshmallow and weenie sticks”—and an experimental brewery.

But local jams and rock candy aside, the best part of general stores may be the sense of community they create. “People sit and talk to each other, kids play outside, and the morning coffee hour solves the world’s problems,” says Good Hart owner Carolyn Sutherland. “We like to think we’re the original social network.” —SUSAN O’KEEFE

DELICIOUS, HEALTHY MEDITERRANEAN "AWARD WINNING RECIPIES"

*First place winner at 17th annual gourmand cookbook award for
"Best Health and Nutrition Book" in the world*



SALMON WITH HONEY AND MUSTARD SAUCE

Ingredients
SERVES 6

6 salmon fillets
1 medium onion
½ lemon
2 garlic cloves
A few bay leaves
2 tablespoons honey
1 tablespoon mustard
½ teaspoon salt
6 tablespoons olive
oil

Preparation

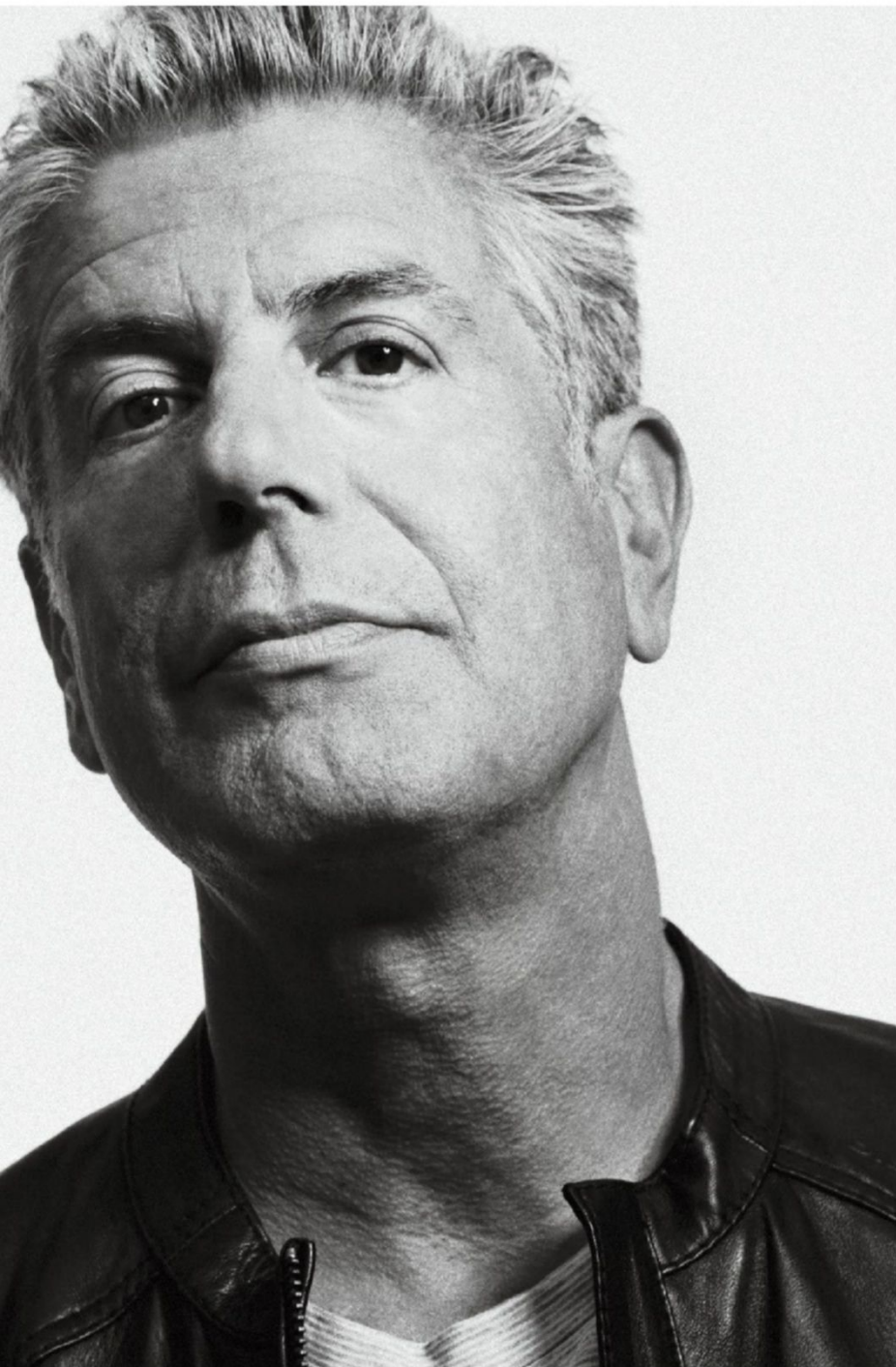
- 1 Combine the sliced garlic, olive oil, salt, mustard and honey and marinate the salmon fillets for five hours.
- 2 Lay the salmon on a tray, top with sliced lemons and bay leaves.
- 3 Cover the tray with parchment paper and cook in a 320°F (160°C) preheated oven.
- 4 Serve with sautéed vegetables, potato cakes or mashed potatoes if desired.



"Invaluable Recommendations For a Healthy Immune System"
Patented charts showing antioxidant values of each recipe.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND FREE RECIPES,
VISIT www.aslihansabanci.com





I'VE HAD DINNER UNDER
A BOUQUET OF HUMAN
SKULLS; I GUESS THAT WAS
PRETTY STRANGE.

EXPLORER

Mr. Iron Stomach

*Anthony Bourdain is ready
for his next course.*

Television host, author, and former executive chef Anthony Bourdain has licked his plate clean all over the world, from soup dumplings in Shanghai to piranhas in Peru. The New York City native's CNN show, *Parts Unknown*, headed to locales such as South Korea, Madagascar, and Scotland during its fifth season this year. Bourdain's busy in his hometown, too: He plans to open an Asian-style hawker market in Manhattan early next year.

WHAT'S THE WORLD'S MOST UNDERRATED SPOT?

Montevideo, in Uruguay, which is to a great extent undiscovered. Everyone from Argentina knows how cool it is because they fill the place up during the season, but other than them, the rest of the world has yet to catch on. It's a very laid-back place, the people are really nice, the beaches are incredible, and there's great food. Tough country for vegetarians, though.

WHICH CITY HAS IT ALL?

Tokyo. I mean, if I had to die mid-meal anywhere, it would be Tokyo. If you were to ask most chefs if they had to have house arrest for the rest of their life in one city and eat all of their meals there, just about everyone I know would pick Tokyo.

DID TRAVELING FOR WORK CHANGE THE WAY YOU TRAVEL FOR VACATION?

Yes, very much. I tend to stay put for vacation. If my family's taking a lengthy trip, it's on a Long Island beach, and I'm driving there and I'm not moving. I'm letting my seven-year-old daughter make all of the major decisions about what we're doing. You know, are we going to the beach today or not? Are we having hamburgers or hot dogs? I'm as close to a vegetable as I could be. —HANNAH SHEINBERG

■ FOR MORE OF ANTHONY BOURDAIN'S INTERVIEW, VISIT
INTELLIGENTTRAVEL.NATIONALGEOGRAPHIC.COM.



PLAY

HOT AND COLD IN MINNEAPOLIS

There's plenty to do in this Twin City, no matter the forecast.



The sculpture garden at the Walker Art Center. Top, a family cools down on Lake Harriet.

This month, sustainability experts come together to brainstorm ideas to combat global warming during MN2015, an international summit held in Minneapolis, Minnesota—a place long famous for its extreme climate. Here are some of the best ways to hurry up and embrace the Midwestern city's soupy summers and snow-globe-style winters—while we still have seasons.

SUMMER Bring a picnic to Lake Harriet's band shell, which hosts concerts—jazz, alt-country, big band, you name it—on most summer days, and movies just after sunset on weekends. For prime people-watching and oysters on the half shell, head to Sea Salt Eatery in Minneapolis's 167-acre Minnehaha Park, home to the 53-foot Minnehaha Falls. In Minneapolis's sister city of St. Paul, located right across the Mississippi River, you don't have to be a baseball fan to appreciate the indie-league St. Paul Saints' new \$63 million CHS Field. With views of the city skyline, local food and beer, and occasional appearances by co-owner Bill Murray, the stadium can feel more like a block party than a baseball game.

WINTER Lace up a pair of rentals and glide under the metal beams of the Depot Ice Rink, a century-old former train shed and registered national historic landmark. Its walls are made of glass, so skaters can enjoy the snow falling over Minneapolis sans negative-degree windchills. If you can handle freezing temperatures, the St. Paul Winter Carnival features outdoor events such as a half-marathon, ice sculpture contests, beer tastings, and the nighttime Torchlight Parade. Escape winter for an afternoon to wander indoors at the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, one of the most visited contemporary art museums in the country, which celebrates its 75th birthday this year. —BERIT THORKELOSON

LAYNE KENNEDY/CORBIS (LAKE), CHRIS FORD (SCULPTURE)

eye to eye

Durban

SOUTH AFRICA



“

Every time I take a flight, I am always mindful of
the many people who make a
successful journey possible.

Chief Albert Luthuli, Zulu Tribal Chief
1936-1967 (Durban)

”

Durban (in Zulu 'eThekweni', derived from itheku meaning a bay or lagoon). A city established in 1824 on land granted by King Shaka. A fusion of citizens of Zulu, English and Indian heritage. A tourist mecca for over 150 years.



YOUR SHOT

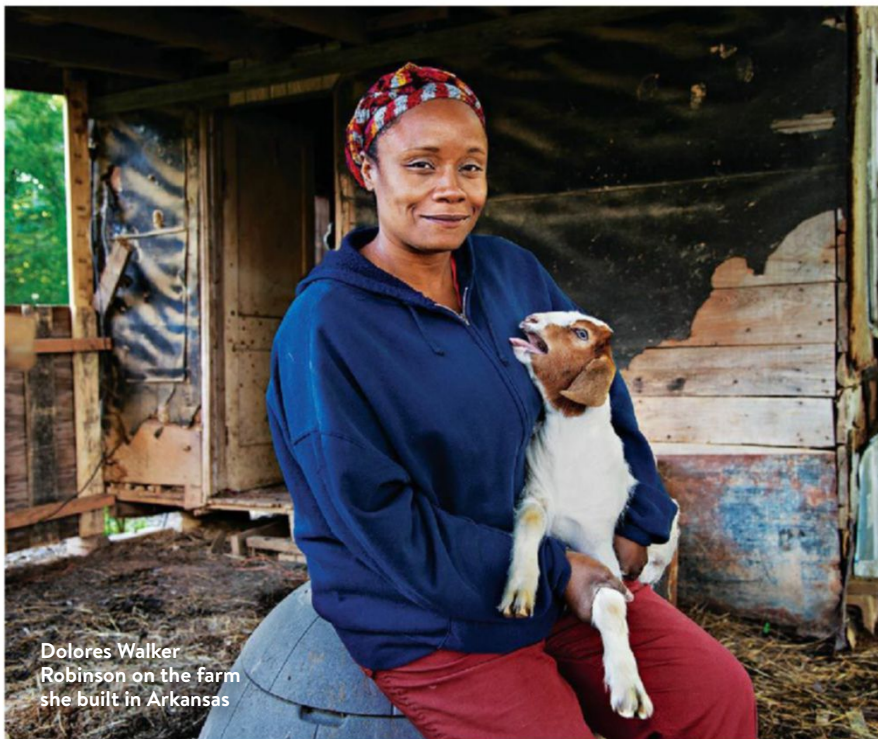
Color in Motion

A pilgrimage in India inspires a prismatic image.

Hindu pilgrims form a swirl of color in the streets of Pandharpur during a *yatra*, or religious procession. “Every year, thousands of devotees walk dozens of miles to this Indian holy town southeast of Mumbai to pay homage to the deity Vithoba, a regional incarnation of the god Vishnu,” says Arvind Ramteke, a photographer based in Mumbai. “Here they flow around a shrine dedicated to the god Hanuman, who often is portrayed as a blue monkey, on their way through town to the Vithoba Temple, where they will honor representations of Vithoba and other deities.”

“A number of things grabbed me in this image,” says *Traveler* director of photography Dan Westergren, “including the vivid hues and sense of motion. The blurring makes the pilgrims look like a river of people, their colorful attire echoed by the yellow, orange, and blue shop awnings. Caught in the whirlpool of humanity is the small temple, its rooftop statues of sacred blue monkeys appearing to monitor the procession.”

■ JOIN OUR ONLINE PHOTOGRAPHY COMMUNITY AT NATGEOYOURSHOT.COM.

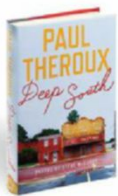


Dolores Walker Robinson on the farm she built in Arkansas

BOOKSHELF

Travel-Ready Reads

New books take us from the Deep South to the Middle East.



DEEP SOUTH *By Paul Theroux* Driving along rural roads, past cotton fields and boarded-up towns, stopping at diners and booming blues fests, Theroux brings his penetrating eye to the American South. Steve McCurry's haunting and hopeful photos (including the one above) accompany the text.

ONE WILD SONG *By Paul Heiney* After his son commits suicide at age 23, Heiney sets off on a sea voyage his sailor son would have loved, solo from England to the treacherous waters of Cape Horn. The wilds of ocean, island, and glacier offer danger and wonder on this 18,000-mile pilgrimage.

THE DIAMOND CAPER *By Peter Mayle* Daring jewel heists propel the plot in this signature celebration of rosé, renovation, and the sensual splendors of sunny Provence.

THE BAMBOO STALK *By Saud Alsanousi* In this rare Kuwaiti novel translated into English, a half-Filipino, half-Kuwaiti outcast navigates Kuwait's intricate hierarchies and strictures in his search for acceptance. —DON GEORGE

■ FOR MORE BOOK REVIEWS, VISIT INTELLIGENTTRAVEL.NATIONALGEOGRAPHIC.COM.

BACKSTORY

THE NEON JUMBLE

Breezewood, Pennsylvania, might be the prettiest-named ugly place in America. The unincorporated town is known for its neon strip tucked snugly into an asphalt armpit between Interstate 70 and the Pennsylvania Turnpike.

It has always been a place for travelers. Native Americans blazed early trails in the area; Conestoga wagons also rumbled through. In 1940, an interchange connected the new Pennsylvania Turnpike toll road with Breezewood's bit of Route 30. Then in the mid-1960s, a stretch of I-70 from Maryland's state line to Breezewood was completed. And things got weird. Pennsylvania had the option to use federal money to build an interchange for the new highway at Breezewood, but—due to a funding technicality—declined. Instead, I-70 was extended to meet up with U.S. 30, detouring cars through the town's two stoplights and past a bevy of businesses.

Today more than six million cars per year travel through Breezewood. If they had a choice (they don't), it's likely most would breeze right by.

—MAGGIE ZACKOWITZ



Breezewood sells gas—and shot glasses.

5 BREATHTAKING CARIBBEAN ISLANDS, 7 STUNNING ALL-INCLUSIVE RESORTS
ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES



ANTIGUA | BARBADOS | ST. LUCIA | THE GRENADINES | TORTOLA, BVI



FALL/WINTER EXCLUSIVE
FREE NIGHT in the Caribbean*

On Stays of 7 Nights or Longer

BOOK BY NOV 30, 2015 | TRAVEL OCT 1 - MAR 31, 2016

CALL YOUR FAVORITE TRAVEL PROFESSIONAL OR 800.858.4618
ELITEISLANDRESORTS.COM/NGT

Elite Island Resorts
CARIBBEAN

*Restrictions apply



Sharks, including whitetip reef sharks, circle coral in the new Pitcairn Islands Marine Reserve.

PRISTINE SEAS

TREASURE ISLANDS

A remote archipelago in the Pacific Ocean anchors the world's largest contiguous marine reserve.

“The clearest visibility ever measured in the Pacific Ocean” is how marine ecologist and National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence Enric Sala describes the waters around the British-governed Pitcairn Islands. Sala traveled there with other scientists as part of the National Geographic Society’s Pristine Seas project. “The remote archipelago, east of Australia, was hypnotic, teeming with schools of thousands of fish—red snappers, parrotfish, rudderfish—in an ocean from a thousand years ago. We observed extraordinary things, from a pristine reef with blue corals that looked like giant roses to...species never reported before for the Pitcairn Islands. Also remarkable was the abundance of sharks, which signals a healthy ecosystem. Never having seen a human or heard a motor, they were very curious.”

Thanks in part to Sala’s expedition, along with the Pitcairn Islands and the Pew Charitable Trusts, the British government in March established the world’s largest contiguous marine reserve, encompassing some 322,000 square miles. Sala’s account of the expedition appears in the new National Geographic book *Pristine Seas: Journeys to the Ocean’s Last Wild Places*.

■ VISIT PITCAIRN AND OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDS ON THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPEDITION “TAHITI TO EASTER ISLAND: TALES OF THE PACIFIC.”

ENRIC SALA/NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC



Mount Rushmore National Memorial

Crazy Horse Memorial
Wind Cave National Park

Jewel Cave National Monument

Missouri River

Historic Deadwood

Custer State Park

South Dakota
GREAT FACES. GREAT PLACES.

Eight incredible sites. One breathtaking vacation.
Find your Great Place at TravelSouthDakota.com.

Request a Free South Dakota Vacation Guide • 1-800-S-DAKOTA

FOOD & DRINK

Hard Cider Season

The slightly sweet, sparkling classic is at the height of its harvest.

“If you go back 350 years in America, every farm had orchards and everyone drank hard cider,” says Brian Rutzen, the cider director of the Northman—a cider bar opening this fall in Chicago. Cider’s on everyone’s lips again, thanks to the classic cocktail resurgence, the “slow food” movement, and even the gluten-free trend. Giant brewers have all gotten involved, and cider-only bars from Seattle to New York City are cropping up. Here’s where to savor these adult versions of apple juice across the U.S.

MIDWEST “Michigan is now the third largest apple-growing state behind Washington and New York,” says Rutzen. He recommends Vander Mill cidery out of Spring Lake and Uncle John’s Cider Mill in St. Johns, which offers a tasting room open from May to December.

NORTHEAST The Big Apple’s first cidery, Descendant Cider Company, opened last year in Queens and features small-batch ciders made entirely from Empire State apples. You can’t tour, but you can drink its ciders in 30 bars throughout the city. Our top choice? Lower East Side’s Wassail, a sleek cider bar and restaurant that opened this spring.

WEST COAST Finnriver Farm and Cidery, home to more than 4,000 apple and pear trees, mixes botanicals like locally harvested fir tips and rose hips into its blends. **SOUTH** Austin Eastciders in Texas plans to open a tasting room in artsy East Austin this year. In the meantime, visit Half Step for a Cider Julep—Eastciders Dry, Calvados, sugar, fresh mint, and angostura bitters. —JENNY ADAMS



BECKY HALE/INGS

HAWAII'S TOP SNORKELING SPOTS

Sure, Hawai'i is known for its impossibly beautiful beaches. But the Islands boast an impressive underwater world that can't be missed. Here, four bucket-list-worthy snorkeling spots in the Aloha State.

Slip into the crystal clear waters of Kealakekua Bay on **Hawai'i Island**. Situated just 12 miles south of historic Kailua Village, the Marine Life Conservation District offers the chance to see spinner dolphins, endangered green sea turtles, and in the winter, humpback whales. If you're in the mood for adventure, head to Makua, or Tunnels Beach, on the north shore of **Kaua'i**. The idyllic spot, which is calmest in the summer,

boasts underwater caverns and lava tubes, perfect for Cousteau wannabes. At Makena Landing, on **Maui's** southwest shore, you'll spot everything from Moorish Idols to sea urchins and vibrant coral. For sun-seekers, drive five minutes south to Makena Beach State Park and grab some sand at "Big Beach." Aptly named, since this is one of the largest beaches on Maui. **O'ahu's** North Shore is known for its massive winter surf swells. But in the summer, the waves calm, and snorkeling at Shark's Cove—part of the Pūpūkea Marine Life Conservation District—is a must-do. Don a snorkel mask and fins to see underwater rock formations, coral caves, and tunnels teeming with tropical reef fish.



Kealakekua Bay, Hawai'i Island (top); Makua Beach, Kaua'i (above). Photos courtesy Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA)/Tor Johnson

To plan your vacation to the Hawaiian Islands, visit gohawaii.com.

Capture Life



Collect stories, not selfies.

You won't remember the time you spent staring at your screen, but you'll never forget your time with us in Hawaii. 866-774-2924 | astonhotels.com

Aston
HOTELS & RESORTS
welcome home



A runner's view of the Boston skyline from the Charles River esplanade

ADVENTURE

Urban Dash

Three American cities that are made for running

BOSTON The Charles River and the Emerald Necklace string of parks both offer mostly uninterrupted running on paved and dirt paths throughout Greater Boston. Along the Charles, you can enjoy a short, flat run past Harvard, MIT, and Boston University, or log up to 17 miles round-trip from the Museum of Science to Watertown. The Necklace stretches seven gently hilly miles from Boston Common and the Public Garden—past waterways through Back Bay Fens, Olmsted Park, Jamaica Pond, and Arnold Arboretum—to Franklin Park.

SAN FRANCISCO The 6.5-mile-long waterfront promenade, from the Giants ballpark to Fort Point beneath the Golden Gate Bridge, affords close-up views of the bay and the city's two great bridges. It's primarily flat and paved—and traffic free except for a few blocks through Fisherman's Wharf. Just follow the water. That rule also applies to the three-mile run along Ocean Beach, which is where you can head inland for a seven-mile loop of Golden Gate Park.

WASHINGTON, D.C. Skip the walking tours: You can see most of D.C.'s monuments on the National Mall, a five-mile round-trip run between the U.S. Capitol and the Lincoln Memorial. For more serene surroundings, run the oak-shaded trails in Rock Creek Park, which wind through several parks in nine rolling miles from Georgetown to the Maryland border and beyond. The nearly flat C&O Canal towpath heads north from Georgetown into Maryland alongside the scenic Potomac River (look for eagles and herons). —BOB COOPER

ICON

THINK OUTSIDE THE BOOTH

The United Kingdom's signature red phone booths are still in demand, but not just for calls anymore. In response to resident requests, British Telecommunications began selling the booths for £1 in 2008. Now, more than 2,500 have been adopted.

Last year, two London School of Economics innovators fashioned one into a free cellphone charging station on Tottenham Court Road. The success of the solar-powered stall, visited about 80 times a day, led to funding for ten more in the city's center, and the founders often receive queries from those around the globe who want to follow suit.

But technology isn't the only way these booths reconnect with locals. Some have transformed into art galleries, coffee shops, defibrillator stations, and mini-libraries that operate on a take-one, leave-one policy and hold as many as 300 books. Gloucester company English Phone Boxes can even fulfill custom requests, which include everything from mini-offices to pint-size bars.

—MONIKA JOSHI



An English library, dialed down

Did you know a group of sea turtles is called a *bale*?

Did you also know a group of National Geographic members who insure their car with GEICO are called Savers? That's right, as a member and subscriber of Nat Geo, you could save even more on your car insurance with a **special discount**. Join your fellow members who already insure their car with GEICO, and you could end up saving a bale of money, too.

geico.com/natgeo | 1-866-496-3576

GEICO®



Some discounts, coverages, payment plans and features are not available in all states or all GEICO companies. Discount amount varies in some states. One group discount applicable per policy. Coverage is individual. In New York a premium reduction may be available. GEICO is a registered service mark of Government Employees Insurance Company, Washington, D.C. 20076; a Berkshire Hathaway Inc. subsidiary. © 2014 GEICO

In the maze that can be Milan, locals and visitors orient themselves by the lacy spires of the city's Duomo.





MY CITY

MAXIMUM MILAN

BY BEPPE SEVERGNINI

Milan may not take your breath away, like Venice. It's not as elegant as Florence, as spectacular as Rome, or as picturesque as Naples. It doesn't have Como's gorgeous lake or Siena's harmonious hills. But Milan is Italy, more so than any of those lovely places.

Milan is a flat, closed, circular city. It's easy to lose your way. Italy is a maze; Milan even more so. The architect Renzo Piano says that as a boy, he lived in Florence, but found it "too boring, because it was too perfect." Milan, on the other hand, "was the least perfect, and therefore most interesting, city." I agree. Milan is far from perfect. But it has guts, to start with. Over the past hundred years, many of Italy's pivotal changes started in Milan: socialism, Great War fever, fascism, resistance to fascism, the economic boom of the sixties, the political turmoil of the seventies, and the populist tycoon, Silvio Berlusconi. Good and bad, all in Milan.



Once an important part of city industry, Milan's old *navigli* (canals) are in the midst of a revival.

Milan has ideas, always had. Food. Fashion. Design. Television. Advertising. Publishing. Milan is the country's go-to city for all these sectors, plus industry, commerce, and finance—leaving only politics, public television, and cinema to Rome. Go to Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II on Piazza del Duomo and take the escalator to Niko Romito's brand-new restaurant, Spazio. Look down into the Galleria, the mother and father of all shopping malls, alive with activity. You'll see why Europe has always treated Milan with respect.

Cross the square and take an elevator to the roof of the cathedral, the Duomo. Lose yourself among the pinnacles and spires, observe the city and the plain below as the golden statue of the Madonnina seems to float in the air. If God ever built a sand castle, this is what it would look like. Walk back into the Galleria and exit the opposite end, where Piazza della Scala lies, with the opera house and Palazzo Marino, the city hall. Beauty and politics keep an eye on

each other, like suspicious relatives. Sit in the square and watch the Milanese coming down from Via Manzoni and the fashion quadrangle to the Ristorante Trussardi. In summer, the scent of linden trees fills the air.

Just around the corner, Milan dances to a faster beat. The courtyards of the Università Statale, a former hospital, and the Accademia di Brera buzz with students. Arco della Pace and Colonne di San Lorenzo belong to the autonomous republic of the aperitif. So do the *navigli*, the old waterways that converge on the newly opened Darsena basin. Yes, Milan has got its river back at last! Have a stroll, linger in any of the cafés. Take your time. Look at us, the Italiani, how we talk with our smiles, our eyes, our hands. How we try to impress you, and often succeed.

Dinner? The new rooftop restaurant in the Triennale museum. Does the view from there look like Manhattan's Central Park? Maybe, but around you *la grande bellezza*, the great beauty, is different. Parco

Sempione, dark green; Castello Sforzesco, bathed in orange light; the slender, silver buildings of Piazza Gae Aulenti that brought Milan's skyline into the 21st century.

Milan has gusto, both in the English sense of keen enjoyment and with the Italian meaning of good taste. Expo Milano 2015 opened May 1, with 145 countries exhibiting, and instantly became a movable feast. Feeding the planet—the theme for the world's fair this year—is important. But feeding the Italian spirit, after years in the economic doldrums, matters too. This opportunity for Italy is a serious attempt to ponder nutrition and a fantastic six-month-long party, to boot. Expo 2015 is the world as it would like to be, and isn't.

But it looks, it sounds, and it smells like Milan. And that is good.

BEPPE SEVERGNINI is a columnist for Milan's *Corriere della Sera* and the author of 15 books, including the best-selling *La Bella Figura: A Field Guide to the Italian Mind*.



THIS WAY TO ADVENTURE



Do you picture yourself surfing in the Mexican Pacific?

Fly-fishing in Tierra del Fuego? Or maybe you see yourself paragliding over the Swiss countryside, or trekking the deserts of Namibia? Whatever adventure you seek, you can't do better than to check in with the pros. For 25 years, the Adventure Travel Trade Association has been the clearinghouse for sustainable adventure travel. Make ATTA your first stop for expert advice on your next adventure at www.adventuretravel.biz.





ADVENTURE TRAVEL
TRADE ASSOCIATION
www.adventuretravel.biz

LET'S GO QUITO

You're down for five adventure-packed days in and around this dazzling 9,350-foot-high city. Placed amid snow-crowned peaks, the Ecuadorian capital buzzes with excitement and possibility. Get ready for a crystalline-air, high-peak-and-cloud-forest thrill of a lifetime.



San Francisco in the historic center of Quito (left); Cotopaxi is the second-highest active volcano in the world (right).

DAY 1

Start your Quito adventure in the city's historic center and marvel at its splendid architecture and energetic daily life. Take in centuries-old churches such as La Compañía de Jesús or La Basílica, the towers of which offer a spectacular view of the colonial and modern city.



Locro de papa (cheesy potato soup)

Visit cobblestoned La Ronda Street and discover traditional crafts in paint, wood, ironwork, metalwork, and ceramics. Try an "energy cleanse" with herbs from the 120-year-old San Francisco market. Indulge in local delicacies like chocolate, coffee, locro de papa (cheesy potato soup), paila ice cream (hand-churned in a large copper bowl), and chicha (a maize or fruit juice, fermented or not). You can also buy fresh ingredients and have a chef prepare one of Quito's signature dishes.

DAY 2

Time to get out and see the city from the western heights. A cable car will transport you from 9,186 to 13,287 feet in a thrilling

8 minutes. At the top you'll have spectacular views of the capital and the valleys and volcanoes that surround it. If you're up for it, you can take a two-hour hike to Ruco Pichincha, one of the two highest peaks of Pichincha volcano at 15,387 feet.

To the north of the city you can experience the history and mystery of the Equator, an icon of this ancient land. Put one foot in each hemisphere, and learn about the importance of the Equator in astronomy and how the ancients may have understood its location and significance. Nearby, visit Pululahua volcano and its Geobotanical Reserve, one of the few inhabited craters in the world. Bike, hike, and birdwatch in this unique cloud forest microclimate.

DAY 3

Pure outdoor adventure. An hour and a half south of Quito by train or car, Cotopaxi National Park awaits your discovery. Here in the second most visited of Ecuador's national parks (after Galápagos), you can hike, mountain bike, and camp within view of the stunning, boulder-strewn, snow-covered crater. Those in superb condition can hire a guide and make a gradual ascent into the thin air of Cotopaxi, the second-highest active volcano in the world at 19,347 feet. Outside the park, you can visit or stay in one of the many Andean haciendas and observe the equestrian skills of the *chagras*, Ecuadorian cowboys. Why not go for a horseback ride yourself and imagine the days of

ADVENTURE TRAVEL GUIDE

the Spanish colonial landowners and their grand ranches? A little farther south, visit plantations that grow some of the best roses in the world.

Put one foot in each hemisphere, and learn about the importance of the Equator in astronomy.

DAY 4

From the cold and high altitude to the heat of the cloud forest. Northwest of Quito lie several reserves ideal for watching endemic and rare birds. These conservation sites rank among the internationally recognized IBAs (Important Bird Areas). Visit in August to see the spectacled bear, the only bear of the Andes.

At the misty Mashpi Rainforest Biodiversity Reserve, you can walk amid the trilling of frogs, the calls of howler monkeys, and the songs of many bird species. Visit the 1,500-acre El Pahuma Orchid Reserve, home to orchids, epiphytes, bromeliads, mosses, and ferns. The lush vegetation of the Mindo-Nambillo Ecological Reserve's 48,000 acres includes an abundance of plant and animal species. You can experience its beauty on foot, mountain bike, or inner tube. At the Maquipucuna Reserve, you might see toucans, hummingbirds, and other exotic birds. For an inside look at local life, visit the Yunguilla community and sample their jams and cheeses.

DAY 5

Adrenaline on two wheels. If biking is your thing, there are several options around Quito. The best known is Chaquiñán (Quichua for "path"), which follows old rail lines. You can pedal from Cumbaya up to Puembo (about 12 miles), or east of the city out to the little town of Tumbaco (7 miles). The more experienced will want to cycle the challenging highland routes. You can go from the top of Cima de la Libertad to Cruz Loma, on the slopes of the Pichincha volcano. The 48-mile Nono to Nanegalito route, with its breathtaking descent, is another popular spin. And then there's the Pacto to Mashpi trail, where your adventure winds up with a refreshing dip in the river.

VISIT US AT:



Quito® Ecuador Lat 0°0'0"		
FEET		HIGHLIGHTS
19,347	▲	Cotopaxi summit
15,387	▲	Rucu Pichincha summit
13,287	▲	Teleférico cable car station (panoramic view)
12,467	▲	Cotopaxi National Park
11,482	▲	Andean moorlands
9,186	▲	Quito historic center
8,530	▲	Community of Yunguilla
8,038	▲	Middle of the World LAT. 0°0'0"
7,545	▲	Pululahua's crater
5,905	▲	Maquipucuna Cloud Forest Reserve
3,280	▲	Andean "Chocó"
1,640	▲	Mashpi Natural Reserve

Bikers on the Pacto to Mashpi route (below)



ISLAMORADA ADVENTURE

Situated between the watery wilderness of the Everglades and the deep blue of the Florida Strait, Islamorada is a tropical paradise that invigorates, takes the breath away, calls for adventure. Islamorada and its six-island community welcome adventurers of every stripe. Craving a rush? You'll find it here.

Be a Marine Mammal

Think of a marine activity and do it. Kiteboard the wind and waves; kayak a shimmering world of seagrass beds and tidal flats; paddleboard the wetlands; tour offshore to see tropical fish, dolphins, manatees, crocodiles, and roseate spoonbills. Venture out to Lignumvitae Key State Botanical Site, a hammock forest atop the remains of an ancient coral reef. Or visit Windley Key Fossil Reef State Geological Site.

Fins and More

Sportfishing was practically invented here. You can charter fish the shallows, reefs, and deep water. Go for catch-and-release tarpon, yellow snapper, kingfish, and mahi mahi; or bring your prize in to a local restaurant and have the chef prepare it to your liking.



Fishing is a favorite activity in Islamorada.

Strap on a pair of fins yourself and dive on the *Eagle*, a freighter scuttled in 105 feet of water and now a lively reef. Or be a hero for a day: Join a restoration crew and help clean a coral nursery.

In the village, sample the dockside fish houses and gourmet cafes. And cruise the cool galleries of Morada Way Arts & Cultural District.

For details, visit fla-keys.com/islamorada.

Attention Chill Seekers.

The Florida Keys
Islamorada

Adventure doesn't have to be death defying. Slip away to the pristine mangrove channels of Islamorada's backcountry for an adventure you'll never forget. Or paddle out to Indian Key where the Atlantic meets history. When you return to base camp you can dine on fresh Mahi with mango salsa instead of freeze-dried mystery meals.

Now that's adventure.

fla-keys.com/islamorada 1.800.322.5397



ADVENTURE TRAVEL GUIDE



ADVENTURE TRAVEL
TRADE ASSOCIATION
www.adventuretravel.biz



Join Us on Our Award-Winning 'Rimu' Trip!

We're Kiwis, and since 1996 we've looked after active people with legendary Kiwi hospitality in the stunning New Zealand outdoors. If you're into hiking, paddling, and biking through parks, valleys, bays, and backroads, then don't look past our signature 'Rimu' trip. Over 14 days you'll explore the most beautiful, famous, and little-known places in the South Island and you'll get a chance to challenge yourself a little...or a lot. Off the beaten track by day and in cozy lodgings by night, experience the real New Zealand with the locals.

Join us and you'll have the best adventure. Ever. Get your FREE brochure at:

Activeadventures.com/new-zealand 800.661.9073



Scale a Waterfall in Ecuador!

Our South America trips are packed with physical activities, culture, history, and great food set against scenery that'll knock your socks off. If you enjoy the outdoors, like being active, and want to hike the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu or tour the Galápagos Islands, then you'll love what our adventure trips are all about. If you want to cycle down a volcano in Ecuador or hike in Patagonia, then you'll love the places we take you. Join our exceptional local guides who are passionate about sharing their backyard with adventurers like yourself and we'll make this vacation the best one you've ever had. When you travel with us, don't expect to go home the same.

Activeadventures.com/south-america 800.661.9073



Trust Your Safari Planning to the Experts

Our family-owned and -operated company has been arranging custom safaris for travelers for over 15 years. We take pride in our intimate knowledge of destinations and lodgings in the top wildlife parks in Southern and East Africa, offering custom safaris in nine countries.

Africansafarico.com 800.414.3090



Find Your True North

Experience an incredible journey in Canada's North on an exhilarating Tundra Buggy Adventure in Churchill, Manitoba. Spend your days seeking out majestic polar bears on the wide, barren expanses of the tundra. Join us for your next Authentic Arctic Experience.

frontiersnorth.com 800.663.9832



Machu Picchu—Lodge to Lodge—at Its Finest

On this 7-day, fully guided adventure from the base of spectacular Mount Salkantay to Machu Picchu, you'll trek through 15 biozones, traverse a mountain pass at 15,340 feet, see the convergence of 3 rivers, discover villages where locals maintain age-old traditions, and witness the majesty of Machu Picchu, the crown jewel of the Inca Empire.

Best of all, you'll travel from lodge to lodge along uncrowded trails in areas so remote that your only company may be a mighty condor. Your only task on this journey of a lifetime is to follow in the footsteps of the Inca. Reserve your space now.

Mountainlodgeofperu.com 877.491.5261



Lares Adventure to Machu Picchu in First-Class Lodges

Explore the most iconic Inca sites in the Sacred Valley and travel among traditional weavers' mountain villages on your way to Machu Picchu, with views of snowcapped peaks and remote valleys. Mountain Lodges of Peru offers accommodations in new first-class lodges, with gourmet cuisine and even a Jacuzzi. Throughout the trip you will be escorted by our experienced local guides, with hiking activities suited to all levels of difficulty and length. Five- and seven-day all-inclusive programs from Cusco to Cusco. Explore your own sense of adventure. We invite you to become a pioneer.

Mountainlodgeofperu.com 877.491.5261



Go Expedition Cruising in the Peruvian Amazon

Deep in the Peruvian Amazon, Delfin Amazon Cruises will take you into the world's largest protected flooded forests, the Pacaya Samiria National Reserve. Experienced guides will show you the immense biodiversity of the area. In this bird-watching haven, be ready to encounter howler monkeys, white caymans, sloths, iguanas, and many more. Voyages include visits to native villages, kayaking, opportunities to swim near pink river dolphins, fishing, daytime hiking, stand-up paddle boarding, and night safaris. On board, guests can enjoy exquisite Amazonian cuisine in an authentic intimate setting, with the right amount of elegance and comfort.

delfinamazoncruises.com +51.1.719.0999

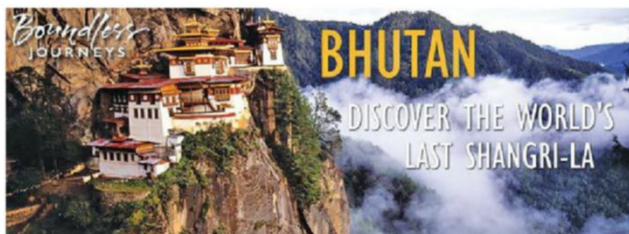


Explore Fairbanks, Alaska!

With the midnight summer sun shining nearly 24 hours a day, Fairbanks is bursting with energy and things to do. Pan for gold, float down the Chena River, mingle with reindeer, cool off in an ice museum, take a refreshing hike and look for wildlife, or be inspired by art galleries, museums, and historic sites.

Late August through late April, during Aurora Season, view the shimmering light of the aurora borealis. Fairbanks is one of the best places on Earth to see the northern lights, view larger-than-life ice sculptures, and experience the exhilarating sport of dog mushing. Request your free Visitors Guide today!

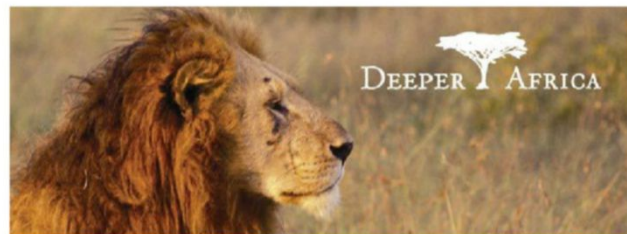
explorefairbanks.com 800.327.5774



Boutique Adventure Travel

Voted as a "World's Best" Tour Operator, our passion is to create outstanding travel experiences for people with an adventurous spirit. We offer worldwide adventure tours featuring experiences ranging from cultural walking journeys to wilderness treks to African safaris.

boundlessjourneys.com 800.941.8010



Explore the Serengeti

No fences, no settlements, just a perennial migration of wildlife that stretches over a thousand miles in Tanzania and Kenya. The Serengeti remains the greatest wildlife show on the planet. Explore it with the best.

deeperafrica.com 888.658.7102



Sustainable Trekking in the Himalaya

Discover innovative active holidays in Nepal, Bhutan, Tibet and the Indian Himalaya regions of Ladakh and Kashmir. World Expeditions is proud to operate responsible and sustainable trekking initiatives in the Himalaya and thrilled to celebrate its 40th anniversary this year.

worldexpeditions.com 800.567.2216



Custom Luxury Travel to Asia

Asia Transpacific Journeys is the premier tour operator for travel to Asia, specializing in personally crafted Custom Journeys. With over 27 years of experience, our Travel Specialists utilize their knowledge of Asia, planning your perfect *Journey Beyond the Ordinary*™.

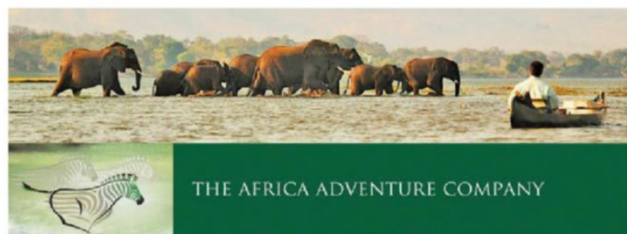
asiatranspacific.com 800.642.2742



Small-Ship Antarctic Expeditions

Our ship-based expeditions take small groups of passengers to experience the best of Antarctica! With over 20 years' experience, we push the boundaries with flexible, innovative itineraries, daily shore excursions, up-close wildlife encounters, and an expert team.

aurora-expeditions.com info@aurora-expeditions.com



Picture-Perfect Photographic Safaris

Join one of our 2015 photographic group departures to Botswana, Tanzania, Uganda, or Zimbabwe! Or contact us for quality custom family safaris, honeymoon getaways, privately guided trips, and independent travel to Africa's Top Wildlife Countries.

Africa-Adventure.com 800.882.9453



Siberia, Silk Route, and Beyond

Adventures in unconventional destinations far from the familiar, at the crossroads of Europe and Asia. MIR has specialized in hand-crafted small-group and private journeys through the incredible landscapes of Siberia and Central Asia's Five 'Stans since 1986.

mircorp.com/ngt 800.424.7289



Extraordinary Family Adventures!

Quivertree is an adventure travel company with a difference—run by families who love to explore, for families who love exploring. Offering tailor-made trips to destinations around the world, we use our own unforgettable travel experiences with our kids to plan yours.

quivertreeworld.com 800.235.9941 778.986.6727



Austin POWER

*Welcome to the laid-back Texan capital. It's a place
to whoop it up, wander, and embrace the weird.*

BY DAVID WHITLEY PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAN WESTERGREN



Native Austinite and folk musician Alejandro Rose-Garcia, better known as Shakey Graves, plays in his studio.



Guttural roars escape from the death metal club across the road. The bartender hands out cans of beer to people who want to drink them in the street. Two guys with beards caked with pizza brought in from the food truck next door discuss whether to go and see ZZ Top tomorrow night. Queues mount outside a barbecue joint, responding to rumors of a secret gig by a big-name band that would usually be playing on a larger stage.

Wednesday night Austin feels woozily alive. Staggering slightly, but brimming with confidence and invention. Music oozes from its sweaty pores, genre an irrelevance as long as it's live. It's the fuel powering the city's energy and its eagerness to

teeter on the edge of irresponsibility. It's Margaritaville with a few cans of Red Bull chucked in, easygoing good times laced with youthful adrenaline.

The fastest growing city in the U.S. may be the capital of Texas, but it feels as if it's in a constant state of rebellion against all that surrounds it. Austin's charged liberalism and determined individuality kick and scream against the conservatism of Texan typecasting. "Keep Austin Weird" is a semiofficial slogan; "Don't Dallas My Austin" is a T-shirt and bumper-sticker clarion call against the sprawling big-business neighbor to the north.

It hasn't always been this way. The transformation from cow town to capital of cool arguably began in 1987, when the



Clockwise from left: Bartender Zack Flores pours a drink at the Hotel San José in the SoCo district. Locals and visitors alike patronize South Austin Trailer Park & Eatery, one of several stationary food truck stops in the city. A Texas longhorn embellishes boots at Allens.



South by Southwest festival was first set up here. Part creative industries trade show, part music gig epidemic taking over most of the town, it has spurred Austin's ballooning festival calendar.

The University of Texas has always ensured a youthful presence, but the city has become fresh-faced with an influx of enthusiastic musicians, artists, and tech pioneers.

Austin isn't a place for rigid itineraries or working through checklists. It's a place for acting on overheard tip-offs, for following instincts and whims.

Yet, once the sun comes up and the haze subsides, a pervading dressed-down relaxedness reveals the city's charm and counterbalances the charge. Off-leash dogs loll in parks,

mosquito-swatting canoeists glide past, and "y'alls" pepper conversations in a betrayal of the valiant fight against Texan roots.

CAPITAL CACHET

SOUTH CONGRESS AVENUE If one street captures the Keep Austin Weird vibe, this is it. Just about every building flanking South Congress rewards the inquisitive. Shop signs are cartoonish neon artworks, cafés and food trucks provide prime people-watching opportunities, and fashion statements ranging from confidently individual to thoroughly absurd strut along the sidewalk.

BARTON SPRINGS POOL Surrounded by Zilker Park abutting Lady Bird Lake, this is one of the greatest urban swimming venues





Jimmy Fox (aka Red), a member of the Austin Facial Hair Club, competes in beard contests around the country.

on Earth. Its three acres of spring-fed waters are a constant 68°F all year, with the odd fish or salamander to tickle your feet. Watching college students try to impress each other with elaborate leaps from the diving board is half the fun.

CONGRESS AVENUE BRIDGE Up to 1.5 million Mexican free-tailed bats live under the bridge spanning Lady Bird Lake. During the summer and early fall, they go insect-hunting around sunset, creating a sky-filling speckled black cloud.

TEXAS STATE CAPITOL The shape mimics that of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., but Texans' typical one-upmanship ensured theirs was built 15 feet taller. Crafted from local red granite, the capitol provides free tours punctuated with quirky details about the building's history and design.

BULLOCK TEXAS STATE HISTORY MUSEUM Just north of the capitol, this museum gives a handy rundown of why Texas is what it is. Epic independence battles against Mexico, the birth of ranching, and the impact of the discovery of oil are all covered.

HARRY RANSOM CENTER Part of the giant University of Texas campus, this treasure trove of old documents and artifacts has two big hitters—an original Gutenberg Bible and, remarkably, the first known photograph ever taken.

LBJ PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY Few presidents ushered through as many social reforms as native Texan Lyndon Baines Johnson, although he's usually remembered for the Vietnam War. His presidential library offers an engrossing look into his life, work, and character—but also a snapshot of a transformative period in recent history.

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE Cinema, Austin style. This Sixth Street institution is notorious for its gloriously silly screenings, such as *The Big Lebowski* and *Wayne's World* quote-a-longs, complete with comedy props.

VINYL AND VINTAGE

ALLENS BOOTS It's not so much a whiff of leather upon entering as a full-on nasal assault. Allens is Western-wear browsing with a wow factor (boots stitched with the Texas flag, anyone?).

WATERLOO RECORDS It's what all record stores should be—with a genre-spanning collection, regular live performances, and late evening hours.

WHOLE FOODS MARKET The healthy food store started in Austin, and its massive headquarters is a social gathering space complete with a wine bar, taco stand, and Italian trattoria.

UNCOMMON OBJECTS Antiques, conversation pieces, miniature art displays—this warren of much loved old junk is a joy to wander through.

INSIDER TIPS

BANG FOR A BUCK Most people drive in Texas, but locals coming from the airport hop on the 100 bus, which handily drops off riders downtown and around the University of Texas campus. It leaves every half hour and costs \$1.75.

PICK UP THE PAPER The *Austin American-Statesman* is the main local newspaper, but the weekly *Austin Chronicle* has a steadier finger on the pulse.

FEST PREP AHEAD Austin's crammed calendar has a downside—accommodation prices, which don't tend to be budget-friendly in the first place, skyrocket when big festivals are on. Book months in advance for a good deal.



The Scallywag—coconut-battered shrimp, bacon, pickled onions, and habañero peach jam (above)—tops the menu of specialty tacos at Torchy's. Vintage-style neon signs (below) light up the Roadhouse Relics studio and gallery. Early risers dip into Barton Springs Pool (right).



GET SOME SHUT-EYE

Unless you want to spend a lot on taxis, aim for digs reasonably close to the action downtown, on South Congress Avenue, or near the University of Texas.

AUSTIN MOTEL The somewhat phallic neon sign outside proclaims this motel to be “So close, yet so far out.” Along with an eclectic array of guest rooms boasting murals, the kidney-shaped pool, affordable rates, and free parking draw crowds.

THE HOTEL SAN JOSÉ A favorite with visiting bands, this spot features rainbow bathrobes and cowskin rugs that help you forgive the occasional lapse into too-cool-for-school minimalism.

W AUSTIN HOTEL This property has rock-star swagger: living-room-style lounge areas, iPad chargers, and poolside cabanas.

BARBECUE AND BEYOND

White-tablecloth fine dining is an option in Austin, but it misses the point—this is a sociable burger, BBQ, and burrito town.

TORCHY'S TACOS A brick-and-mortar child of the food truck scene, Torchy's combines inventive ideas with local ingredients. Vegans flock here for tacos stuffed with fried avocados, portobello mushrooms, and roasted corn. The dark chocolate brownies are made from scratch.

LAMBERTS In the heart of downtown, this lively bistro serves a classier version of Texas smoked barbecue alongside comforting dishes of deviled eggs, fried green tomatoes, and baked mac and cheese. An upstairs lounge features live music most nights.

VESPAIO This is the best bet for inspired Italian food, yet the





atmosphere manages to remain in harmony with the go-your-own-way vibe of its South Congress Avenue surrounds.

LATE-NIGHT MERRYMAKING

Sixth Street is famous for bar crawls, but it attracts a young, student crowd that uses “party” as a verb. Head elsewhere.

BANGER’S Rainey Street—where new bars pop up inside old houses seemingly every week—is infinitely more lovable. Banger’s, with its egalitarian Bavarian-beer-hall-style benches and 101 craft tap beers, is an excellent starting point.

STUBB’S A few blocks north of Rainey Street, the Red River District has a bar with live music for every conceivable taste. Stubb’s is the top dog—the guys behind the Austin City Limits

music festival book the bands here and pull in big names.

SPEAKEASY Multistage, multibar Speakeasy is a reliable and central safe bet—whether you want to catch an up-and-coming math rock (rhythmic, guitar-based music) band or chill with an expertly mixed cocktail over the backroom pool table.

THE BROKEN SPOKE Cold beer, good grub, and real country music make this honky-tonk a standout. Two-step dance lessons are offered Wednesday through Saturday at 8 p.m.

British writer **DAVID WHITLEY** lives in Sheffield, England. This was the first trip to Austin for *Traveler’s* director of photography **DAN WESTERGREN**. This story is a collaboration with our U.K. edition, *National Geographic Traveller*.



Café Society

Parisians have elevated strolling, lingering, and people-watching
to an art. They even have a word for it: *flânerie*.

BY TARA ISABELLA BURTON
PHOTOGRAPHS BY PETER TURNLEY





NE PLACE, MADAME?”

Seated on one of the mismatched chairs at the café La Bourse ou la Vie (“the money or your life”), his yellow suspenders holding in a roll of flesh, my interrogator peers at me through round-rimmed spectacles, waves me past, and turns back toward his companions.

He is telling a story, ostensibly to them, but from the bombastic way his voice echoes off the yellow ceiling, he clearly wants me to hear it too. It’s a folktale, drawn from the works of the 17th-century fabulist Jean de La Fontaine, of a heron that refuses to eat anything but the finest food. The man spreads his arms in imitation of the bird—nearly knocking one hapless diner off his feet—and begins to chirp wildly. Then he stops. He has spotted someone he knows, driving down Rue Vivienne.

On this balmy June afternoon, the café doors are wide open; nothing separates us from the pavement and street outside. He calls to his friend, who brakes in front of the café. They chat—about work, life, politics—oblivious to the motorists honking around them. At last he waves his hand. The friend drives on, and the raconteur resumes his storytelling.

It is only when I glimpse the painting on a

nearby wall—of an almost naked man posing, pinup style, in round-rimmed spectacles—that I realize he is Patrice Tartard, the owner.

Next, a young man arrives. Effusive in his greetings, he shakes his host’s hand with what looks like a mix of reverence and terror. He picks up a menu; his host yanks it away, barking, “*Un autre poulet*—another chicken.” The waiter hustles off.

Someone else now catches Tartard’s eye, a motorcyclist riding by, chatting on his cellphone. This Tartard dislikes. He lets loose a stream of epithets—colorful to profane—until the rider has passed. He returns at last to his tale, winking my way as he again poses like a heron. His dining companions look at me helplessly across the table.

“Typical French,” one sighs.

FEW THINGS ARE more French than the artful interplay of voyeurism and performance that takes place at a Parisian café. People-watching is, after all, among the most entrenched of Parisian pastimes. In the 1800s, as industrialization transformed Paris into one of the world’s great metropolises, *flânerie*—a word meaning to stroll around aimlessly but implying an attention to passersby—was raised to an art form. Flâneurs such as novelist Honoré de Balzac and the poet Charles Baudelaire would promenade down the newly constructed *grands boulevards* of Paris’s Right Bank, where broad sidewalks and proliferating cafés provided a perfect vantage point from which to cast a glance at memorable passersby. Some flâneurs, gossip has it, promenaded with pet turtles to ensure a slow pace. Whole books were devoted to “*la ville spectacle*,” the city of entertainment, as Paris was

Whether catching up on the news (opposite) or spending time with good friends (opening pages), much of Parisian life takes place in the capital’s ubiquitous cafés.





A summertime
spectacle, Eiffel
Tower visitors
crowd the wide
Esplanade du
Trocadéro.



known then, urban field guides to particular types of passersby one might spy *en flâneant*.

As a child growing up on Paris's Left Bank, I dreamed of living in the 19th-century Paris of flâneur writers like Balzac, Baudelaire, and Émile Zola. I rode my bicycle through the warren-like streets of the city's 9th arrondissement, home of Zola's courtesans and Baudelaire's degenerates, and up the cobblestoned streets of Montmartre, in love with the Paris of the novels I had read and the centuries in which I had never lived. That led me to my doctoral studies in 19th-century French literature—and, now, back to Paris, where I am about to become a 21st-century *flâneuse*.

I begin where I cycled as a child, the 9th arrondissement boulevards once paraded by a burgeoning bourgeoisie. To my dismay, I find little echo of the world Baudelaire and Balzac described. Globally branded stores glitter under wrought iron balconies; the Parisians hurrying past them don't look up from their phones. If anyone should chance to bring a turtle here, it would soon be crushed underfoot. Undeterred, I turn off Boulevard Haussmann and head toward Galerie Vivienne, one of Paris's famous *passages*, or glass-roofed shopping galleries. Few structures evoke the 1800s like these galleries inspired by Middle Eastern souks. Parisians added a vital element—glazed roofing—which allowed light to flood the interior, creating what 20th-century social critic Walter Benjamin called “a city in miniature.” Forming a nearly continuous trail from the grand boulevards to the artists' haunt of Montmartre, the galleries were places where people, like wares, could advertise themselves. In other words, a flâneur's natural home.

Under Galerie Vivienne's glass ceiling, set off by painted nymphs flanking neoclassical archways, I linger by an antiquarian bookshop, ready to practice a little flânerie of my own. The shop's windows reflect nearby café tables, allowing me to observe a charismatic young man and an impeccably dressed 40-something blonde who sit at adjacent tables, their eyes purportedly on their books. I watch their reflections as they glance at each other in turn, as they smile. I reach back to grab a book I can pretend to read as I peep at them, realizing too late I've opened a volume of erotic nudes. By the time I swivel back, they've set their books down and are making small talk. By the time I leave, they're laughing.

Each of Paris's galleries, I'll discover, has its own stories, only half-told by the time I pass through. In the Passage des Panoramas—famous, in Zola's novel *Nana*, as the place where his titular courtesan meets her lovers—the story may be missed opportunities. I spy a woman of a certain age, overdressed in blue chiffon, sitting alone on the terrace of L'Arbre à Cannelle, a traditional brasserie with a 19th-century facade of delicately carved wood. She sits straight-backed in her chair, her dyed blond hair arranged in a flapper style. Passersby jostle her on their way to Noglu, a gluten-free takeout spot next door, but she takes no heed. She appears to be waiting for someone. No one comes. Across the passage, in a dealership of rare stamps, the elderly proprietor sits alone at his register, nursing a steak tartare and a glass of red wine. He may be a widower, unaccustomed to solitude—or he may have dined this way for 65 years. Every character in this city where everybody is watching is an unanswered question. Their stories are left to my imagination.

I finish my walk through the 9th arrondissement at the Musée de la Vie Romantique, devoted to the lives and loves of such 19th-century bohemians as the author George Sand—nom de plume of Amantine-Lucile-Aurore Dupin, famous for her feminist novels and tempestuous affair with the composer Frédéric Chopin—and the painter Eugène Delacroix, flâneurs in their own right. A pinch-nosed matron leads schoolchildren around the museum, reciting facts about Sand, who was “great at many things. A great writer. A great intellectual. A great *amoureuse*.”

But here, as in the galleries, it is the present, not the past, that seizes my attention. The lovers who interest me are not the ones behind glass. An elderly couple meanders through the museum, whispering and holding hands so devotedly that at one point they trip over an antique chair. When I spot them later in the garden, he's showering her hand with kisses—an intimate moment only a flâneur would be privy to.

IF THE BOULEVARD CAFÉS and the galleries represent two of the great urban theaters of the *ville spectacle*, the third is the department store, what Balzac called “the great poem of display, [chanting] its stanzas of color from the Madeleine to the gate of Saint-Denis.” In the 19th century, these establishments, innovative at the time, were more than places to buy goods; they were venues in which to see and be seen, runways where one would compare sartorial choices. Studio 54 with cash registers.

I meet my childhood friend James Geist—a Parisian law student of Franco-Algerian descent—at Le Bon Marché, Paris's oldest department store, which inspired Zola's novel of commerce and seduction, *The Ladies' Paradise*. While Printemps and the Galeries Lafayette are better known, Geist tells me, it's only at Le Bon Marché, farther from the tourist hordes, that one finds remnants of old Paris, including the interplay of flânerie and showing off that defines so much of Parisian culture.

“In this city, it's all about seeing and being seen,” Geist says.

Today is a perfect day for flânerie, he informs me. The *soldes*, a government-determined period for sales, are taking place; all Parisians, rich and poor, are coming out to shop—and see who else is shopping. “Everything is a symbol,” Geist says. “In New York or London, labels are what matter.” Here, he notes, distinctions are more subtle: the construction of a shoe, the stitching on a handbag, the design on a scarf—all form a complex visual language through which Parisians communicate.

As we ascend an escalator to the women's section, light from the stained glass ceiling illuminating wrought iron balustrades, Geist points out Parisian character types. There's a man he identifies as a dandy from the trendy Marais district, with a long beard, sailor shirt, turquoise scarf. Near him, a balding businessman hunts for a suit with his mother, a dowager with lips that signal contempt.



Moment of
reflection:
Onlookers watch
a toy boat skim
across a canal.

In Paris, a kiss is more than just a kiss—it's a shared moment in the city's story.





"But *maman*, this one isn't as good as the Saint Laurent!" he whines as we pass. "Just get it," she snaps without changing her expression.

Then Geist spies our target. Barely five feet one, with immaculately highlighted hair and a face moisturized into agelessness, she represents the ultimate Parisienne of eras past. Her understated Hermès bag and high-waisted trousers signal her identity as a matriarch of the 7th arrondissement, Paris's bastion of vestigial titles and inherited wealth. She roves through the shop floor at right angles, picking up and then discarding scarves, blouses, shoes. She is mechanical in her search for that single object that will bring her outfit together.

Geist laughs. "In Paris, even leisure is a craft," he says.

T

HE NEXT DAY, Geist ferries me to Café de Flore, on Boulevard St. Germain. If the boulevards of the Right Bank were the prime locations for flâneurs of the

19th century, the café terrasses of Boulevard St. Germain became the spiritual home of the café dwellers of the Lost Generation, which came of age during the First World War. The art deco interior of Flore once welcomed intellectuals such as Jean-Paul Sartre, Simone de Beauvoir, and Albert Camus. Today, despite the influx of tourists, Geist tells me, Flore—with its neighbor and rival, Les Deux Magots—remains one of the city's great places to practice flânerie.

No sooner do we arrive than we find our "theater." Three gentlemen in their 60s, bellies bulging through their blazers, read newspapers around a table. They are, Geist and I both decide, perfect subjects, managing that delicate balance between eccentricity and self-awareness that is so necessary in this city of performers.

A cocker spaniel rummages for leftover pieces of croissants beneath their feet. Its owner, a man with a white beard flecked right now with coffee, raps the dog, Caliphe, on the nose with a newspaper for overindulging in croissants, then announces his departure. "*Je vais lire mon roman*—I'm going to read my novel." Rumbling to his feet, he bids his companions farewell.

He proceeds five steps along the boulevard before we see him shrug and turn back, resuming his place, no explanation. His companions require none. Caliphe jumps up to claim an adjacent chair.

The man holds court for two more hours. His companions leave; more arrive. The waiter brings a note, on Café de Flore stationery, from another patron. A young man stops to pet Caliphe, greets the man affectionately. A co-worker brings files, and is persuaded to stay.

"How," she asks him, "do you know all these people?"

He shrugs and smiles. "I know everyone."

Behind us, a young man with prematurely white hair and

tortoiseshell glasses is leaning in, eavesdropping, just as we are. When the man takes out his camera-phone to snap a discreet photograph, Geist whispers, "Now that's a real flâneur." We stifle a laugh. But soon my friend grows serious. Flânerie is more than a source of amusement, he says.

"It's a philosophy, an ideal. We're all such egoists nowadays, at least in Paris. People-watching is a way for us Parisians to get outside of our heads and be reminded that others exist."

As he speaks, we catch a glimpse of the patrician woman from Le Bon Marché. Her outfit is identical to what she wore the day before, with the addition of a shining silver bracelet. She catches Geist's eye, and for a moment I think she smiles.

ONE OF BAUDELAIRE'S most famous poems is "To a Passerby," about a momentary connection with a woman he spots and then soon loses in the crowd. "I know not where you fled, you know not where I go, O you whom I would have loved, O you who knew it!"

As I continue wandering the streets of Paris, Baudelaire's refrain haunts me. I find myself entering a world not of Balzac or Zola novels but of unfinished fragments, encountering characters whose beginnings and endings I will never know.

There is the man who is strolling along the Canal St. Martin reading a treatise by the philosopher Simone Weil, the book obscuring his face. There is the American girl in an expensive raincoat sobbing in the arms of a French nun on the steps of the Basilique Notre-Dame des Victoires. I catch only what echoes off the church's facade: "...the right person. But I've waited so long!" There is the middle-aged man at the small café in Montmartre, nervously clutching a bouquet of pink and yellow roses, who downs a glass of pastis and hurries on. There is the old man on the yellow steampunk bicycle near Boulevard de Sébastopol, with a series of vintage umbrellas fastened to the handlebars.

"What is that?" I ask him.

"*Ça?*" He laughs as he cycles off. "*Ça, c'est la vie!*"

ON MY FINAL DAY in Paris, I visit the resting place of one of my idols, Oscar Wilde, who spent his final months in the city and whose essays on artifice and performance made me fall in love with the idea of a *ville spectacle*. His sphinxlike tomb at the Père Lachaise cemetery is behind glass: So many admirers have kissed it that its surface has begun to decay.

As tourists arrive, leave flowers, and depart, I spy a young woman, in black, who remains behind. Her long blond hair falls over her notebook. I watch as she sits, sketches, looks up at the tomb. I take note of her dark glasses, her copper red lipstick, the way she sighs with relief when each passing tour group departs.

When I get up to go, she stops me.

"Madame!" Her English is halting. "I love your dress." She nods to the grave. "I feel sure he would have loved it too."

Only then do I look down at her sketchbook.

There, next to her rendition of Oscar Wilde's tomb, I see a portrait of me.

Writer **TARA ISABELLA BURTON** is working on a doctorate in theology and 19th-century French literature at Oxford University. Indiana-born photographer **PETER TURNLEY** divides his time between Paris and New York.

Paris, France

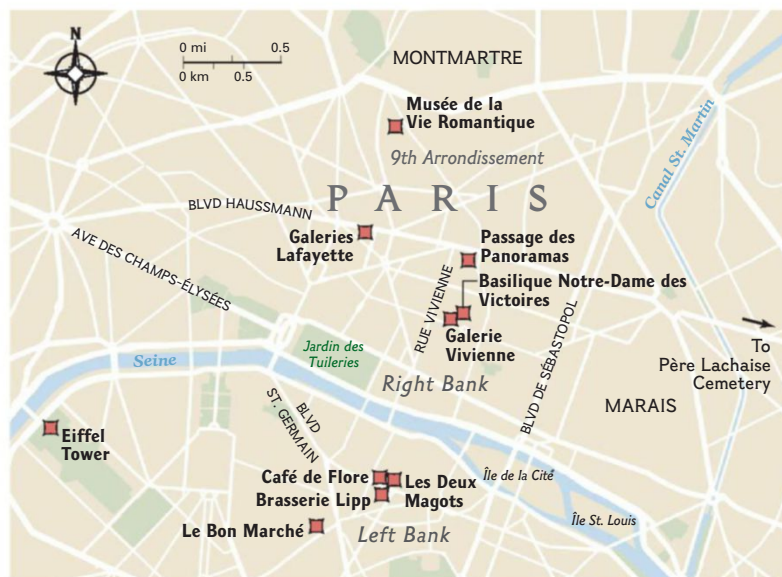
STROLL FRANCE'S capital and you'll see human nature on full display, from doyennes taking their *café* to lovers cooing by the River Seine. As poet Charles Baudelaire put it, in Paris "the spectator is a prince who everywhere rejoices in his incognito."

FLÂNEUR VENUES

Since the mid-1900s, the **Boulevard St. Germain**, on Paris's Left Bank, has been a preferred thoroughfare for flânerie. Its twin titans of café culture, **Café de Flore** and **Les Deux Magots**, attract visitors interested in literary history; the cafés' tables hosted such luminaries as Simone de Beauvoir and Albert Camus. Look closely today and you'll spot patrician dowagers and longtime locals who resist change, often occupying their "usual" tables for hours at a time even on busy nights. For a cozier flânerie experience, cross the boulevard to **Brasserie Lipp**, Ernest Hemingway's haunt. Favored customers here score the high-profile front table, but all

patrons enjoy front-row seats to the local scene.

Few restaurants evoke the glamour of 19th-century Paris like **L'Arbre à Cannelle**, in the **Passage des Panoramas**; actresses and courtesans from the nearby Théâtre des Variétés would rendezvous here with their lovers. Flâneurs can park themselves in the restaurant's frescoed interior or at "outdoor" seating under the glass-covered arcade, both good vantage points for observing the gallery's parade of shoppers. People-watching isn't restricted to cafés, of course. Get past the bouncers at **Le Baron**, a jewel box of a nightclub housed in a onetime brothel near the Arc de Triomphe, and you'll find yourself rubbing elbows with Parisian



socialites and such international celebs as Beyoncé and Björk.

SELECT LODGINGS

Creative types from Jean-Paul Sartre to Miles Davis to Salvador Dalí have convened at **Hôtel La Louisiane**, just off the Boulevard St. Germain. Dating to 1823, the Louisiane has 80 modest but comfy guest rooms; doubles from \$112. Fin de siècle bohemia once thrived on Paris's now trendy Right Bank—and still does at the **Hôtel d'Albion** (not to be

confused with the Hotel France Albion), where 26 colorful rooms sport such themes as "Poetry" and "Dance"; doubles from \$170. Prefer avant-garde digs? Then head east to the Belleville neighborhood, where the Paris-born designer Philippe Starck has transformed a parking garage into the gleefully playful **Mama Shelter**, equal parts restaurant, nightclub, and "concept hotel." Guests may don masks (provided) and take selfies with guest room computers.

The images upload to a server, offering an innovative way to people-watch from the comfort of your room. Doubles from \$110.

ATLAS



The **Passage des Panoramas**, which dates to 1800, was the first public building in Paris to try gas lighting.

Paris's largest cemetery, **Père Lachaise** is the resting place for such luminaries as writer Marcel Proust, painter Eugene Delacroix—and rock star Jim Morrison.

The number of stop signs in Paris: one, in the 16th arrondissement. Drivers rely on right-of-way rules.

LOVE LETTER IN PHOTOGRAPHS THROUGH A LENS, DEEPLY

American photographer Peter Turnley fell for Paris in 1975 and moved to the French capital in 1978. "Paris always reminds me how wonderful life can be. Possibly more than any other city, the visual landscape here illustrates the poetry and power of love." Turnley captures these qualities in photos (left) from his 2013 book *French Kiss: A Love Letter to Paris*, which he calls "a tribute to the wonderful moments of romance, beauty, hope, and love I have been inspired by in my adopted home."



101 Reasons

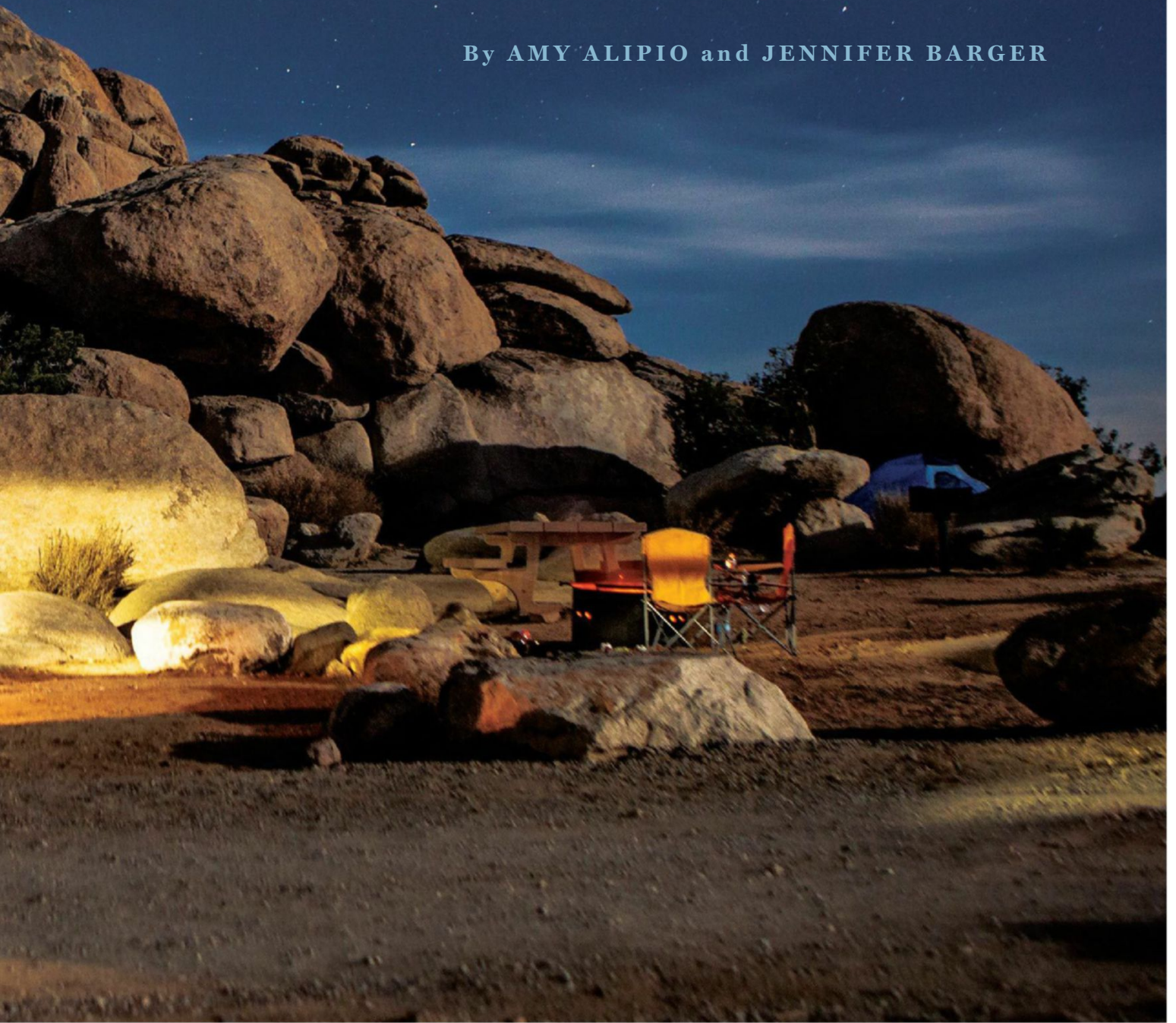


EXPERIENCING THE JOYS OF
CAMPING (REASON NO. 25)
IN JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL
PARK, CALIFORNIA

to Travel Now

From a secret beach to an iconic work of art, the reasons that inspire us to travel are as myriad as stars. Here are the best tastes, places, experiences, and ideas we're currently crazy about.

By AMY ALIPIO and JENNIFER BARGER



1

MAGICAL MOROCCAN CAMEL RIDE

From the back of a camel, Morocco's Erg Chebbi ("sand sea") glows rose gold and orange at sunset. Overnighting in a Berber camp caps off a spiritual, meditative journey.



2

SCOTLAND'S OWN ROUTE 66

The new North Coast route is 500 rugged miles of photo-worthy hillsides, castles, and seaside villages.

3

ALPACA APPAREL

Cloud-soft sweaters go for cheap at San Telmo market in Buenos Aires, where Argentine dealers in knitwear set up every Sunday.

4

ZIP-LINING OVER JODHPUR

Combine a thrill ride with Indian history via Flying Fox's zip-line course above sites such as the 15th-century Mehrangarh Fort.

5

FLOWER POWER

The night-blooming cereus opens up for just one evening a year, usually between late

May and late July. Arizona's Tohono Chul Park, in Tucson, holds the country's largest collection of the cacti.

6

PUCKER UP IN ZANZIBAR

Tangy fresh tamarind juice makes for a restorative breakfast on a rooftop terrace overlooking the streets of Stone Town.

7

STRONGER DOLLAR

With the euro, the Japanese yen, and other currencies at a historic low against the dollar, travel for Americans is cheaper than usual.

8

WILL WORK FOR WINE

We can't think of a better locale to try our hand at WWOOFing (World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms) than on a vineyard in Australia's Barossa Valley.

9

KOH BULON

That idyllic untrampled Thai beach you've been dreaming of? This is it.

10

WALK THIS WAY

Big Apple views loom and cars zoom below as you stroll across the Brooklyn Bridge walkway, still the most scenic approach into Manhattan.

11

DUBLIN'S NEW FOOD SCENE

The Fumbally café features communal tables and no head chef—just wonderful Irish home cooks making great sandwiches and soups.

12

CAR-FREE SIENA

Less flashy than Rome or Florence, always innovative Siena was first among Italian cities to ban cars from most of its old-town center.



A man with a beard and a woman are relaxing in a hot spring. The man is in the center, smiling and giving a thumbs up. The woman is to his right, also smiling. They are surrounded by snow-covered hills and a clear blue sky. The water in the hot spring is dark and bubbling.

13

Beyond the Blue Lagoon

Hot springs and a cold river converge at Hveragerði, in southern Iceland, the perfect spot for a soak after a hike through ancient lava fields and around bubbling mud pots.

FANTASTIC AND FREE



14

SYMPHONY OF LIGHTS

This synchronized sound-and-light show illuminates buildings on both sides of Hong Kong's Victoria Harbour each night at 8 p.m.

15

MEXICO CITY SUBWAY TICKET

At many subway stations in Mexico's capital, do ten squats at a special machine and you'll get a free ticket to ride.

16

KENNEDY CENTER'S MILLENNIUM STAGE

Nightly at 6 p.m., this Washington, D.C., temple of culture hosts performers such as steel-pan drummers and dance groups.

17

"WEEKDAY WANDERLUST"

San Francisco's monthly travel-writer speaker series packs the Library Bar of the Hotel Rex with a collegial mix of trip tales and cocktails.

18

SLOW BOAT TO NANTUCKET

The best way to reach the all-American beach mecca in Massachusetts isn't the speedy hydrofoil from Hyannis but the slower ferry, which takes two-and-a-half stress-shedding hours.

19

COOLEST PASSPORT

Hikers on the Camino de Santiago de Compostela, in France and Spain, fill a paper Pilgrim's Record with inked stamps collected along the way at inns, churches, and tourist offices.

20

GET-UPS AND GO

Sustainable-minded Nau clothing is outdoor wear you can take from Brooklyn bar to base camp.

21

SPIFFIER ROME

The Pyramid, Colosseum, Trevi Fountain, and Domus Aurea (Emperor Nero's villa) all show off much needed—and tasteful—touch-ups. Next: the Spanish Steps.

22

KING OF WINES

In Tokaj, Hungary, the sweet golden Tokaji aszú wine is once again top-notch and sought-after (Louis XIV dubbed it the "wine of kings").

23

THIS AMERICAN LIFE

Addictive podcasts of the weekly National Public Radio show will make any long-haul drive a delight.



24

GERMANY'S ASPARAGUS SEASON

Germans mark the April-June crops of *spargel* (white asparagus) with festivals and menus that serve the tasty stalks traditionally (with hollandaise sauce, new potatoes, and ham) or with a twist (in ice cream).

25

THE JOYS OF CAMPING

No need to go anywhere exotic. The simple freedom of being in a tent makes for a multisensory journey of its own: rain pattering on the roof, the view out the flap, the woody smoke of a campfire.

26

STINKY TOFU

Get your fix at the night markets in Richmond, British Columbia, where delectable Chinese specialties fill four blocks of neon-lit food stalls.

27

WAKE UP IN NEW MEXICO

D. H. Lawrence, writing in 1928, pretty much summed it up: "The moment I saw the brilliant, proud morning shine high up over the deserts of Santa Fe, something stood still in my soul."

28

CLIMBING HUAYNA PICCHU

That green Peruvian peak backdropping all those Machu Picchu photos allows only 400 hikers a day. Book early. The views are worth it.

29

A PROPER BRITISH FRY-UP

St. Werburghs City Farm, in Bristol, serves the classic breakfast of eggs, toast, beans, bangers, and grilled tomatoes in a Hobbiton-like cottage.

30

ICE BIKING BUFFALO

Pedal the Canalside ice rink on an ice bike with one wheel and one blade. It's all part of a waterfront revitalization in this upstate New York city.

**ART
TREASURES**

31

THE MILKMAID

Vermeer's serene masterpiece at the recently renovated Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam

32

**UNTITLED
FILM STILLS**

Cindy Sherman's black-and-white series, displayed not far from Hollywood at the Broad Museum's new L.A. home

33

MOUNTAIN MAN

Frederic Remington's bronze statue at Arizona's new Museum of the West, Scottsdale

34

**LADY AGNEW
OF LOCHNAW**

John Singer Sargent's sumptuous, career-making painting at Edinburgh's Scottish National Gallery



Brands like Delsey, Trunkster, and ChicBuds are introducing suitcases and bags that can charge your phone, weigh and locate themselves, unlock with fingerprint ID, and even give weather forecasts.

36

EPIC SKI PASS

For about the price of seven daily lift tickets you get unlimited, all-season access to 11 ski resorts in California, Colorado, and Utah. Only hook? You've got to buy it before the season starts.

37

JOYRIDES WITH "JUCY"

Imported from New Zealand, these retrofitted Dodge Caravans are the more nimble, next-gen RVs, packed with double beds, fridge, and a stove.

38

OMS AND SUDS

During weekly Bend & Brew classes, Asheville's Travelling Yogini leads sun salutation sessions at different breweries around the North Carolina mountain town, followed by beer tastings.

39

ART IN QATAR

Abu Dhabi may have the Louvre, but Doha boasts the I. M. Pei-designed Museum of Islamic Art, an Ali Baba's cavern of cherished objects.



44

REAL MEXICO

The revived colonial mining town Real de Catorce offers 17th-century churches and buildings (some converted into hotels and restaurants) and horse rides into peyote country.

45

MOTOR CITY MIDTOWN

Detroit's Midtown hood lures "eds and meds" from the nearby college and hospital with made-here watches and high-end bicycles (Shinola), quirky crafts (City Bird), and local beer (Motor City Brewing Works).

46

UNDERWATER GALLERY

Dive or snorkel into one of the world's only underwater sculpture parks in Grenada's Molinière Bay, where more than 60 eerily beautiful figures riff on local culture.

47

POSTCARDS

Whether from the edge or just from New Jersey, these cultural souvenirs have Instagram beat when it comes to tangible travel pleasures.

48

HIKE THE LYCIAN WAY

Passing sleepy villages, beekeepers making honey, and ancient tombs carved in the rocks above, this ancient off-the-radar Turkish trail skirts the Mediterranean.

APPS ON THE GO

40

HOPPER

Airline ticket search taking into account the best times of day to fly. Also alerts you to the right time to book



41

BIRDSEYE

Guide to the likely birds you'll see in any given area, with the ability to record and submit sightings quickly



42

JUST AHEAD

GPS-guided audio tour of national parks, with entertaining stories, geography, history, and driving directions



43

DUOLINGO

Gamelike language learning and an iconic owl mascot. Covers ten languages, including Irish and Turkish

A large platter of Maine lobster and clams, with bowls of coleslaw and soup.

**AMERICAN
FARE**

49

MAINE LOBSTER

Family-run Young's Lobster Pound, in the old shipping town of Belfast, will steam your choice of just caught crustacean and serve it up on picnic tables with vistas of Penobscot Bay.

50

BRITT'S DONUTS

These glazed goodies on the 1880s-era boardwalk at Carolina Beach, North Carolina, are served plain—don't bother asking for sprinkles.

51

CHEESE SANDWICH

When in the South, say "cheese"—as in a classic pimento cheese sandwich, served at old-timey (since 1917) Trowbridge Ice Cream Bar in the Muscle Shoals area of northwest Alabama.

DINNER'S READY AT
YOUNG'S LOBSTER
POUND, MAINE.



PARADING IN
PHILLY ON NEW
YEAR'S DAY

**BLUE-
RIBBON
FESTIVALS**

52

MUMMERS PARADE

PHILADELPHIA

Greet New Year's Day with brilliantly feathered pageantry, now in its 116th year.

53

SPOT PRAWN FESTIVAL

VANCOUVER

The succulent local seafood is a hot ticket, best served boiled.

54

VEVČANI CARNIVAL

MACEDONIA

Elaborate masks and traditional music played on woodwind *zurlas* mark one of the Balkans' best bashes.

55

**SMITHSONIAN
FOLKLIFE**

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Featured places (Basque Spain in 2016) send top artisans, dancers, and cooks to the Mall.





56

**Yellow
Mountain**

Jagged, cloud-kissed peaks helped eastern China's Huangshan range launch a thousand artworks. Either board a cable car or tackle a challenging daylong hike to the top of the western steps.

57

SWEET MEETS SAVORY

Rich caramels at Nashville's Olive and Sinclair combine duck fat, cane sugar, and pepper. Watch them being crafted during the Tennessee company's factory tours.

58

BATHING IN MUD

Just outside Argentina's top wine region, the Termas Cacheuta resort overflows with both mud and mineral baths.

59

CARNIVAL FEVER

Before Ash Wednesday, the tiny island country of Trinidad essentially shuts down for one of the world's largest carnival celebrations. Line up for "fetting" (partying in the streets) and soca-fueled dancing.

60

SLEDDING FOR GROWN-UPS

"Sledging" down Swiss slopes on steerable sleds with runners is the latest Alpine craze. Try it in the cul-de-sac village of Arosa.

61

SOUND ON

Classical Hindustani music resonates throughout Varanasi, one of India's oldest cities.

62

REST LIKE ROYALTY

London's fourth-generation, family-owned Goring Hotel features not only a complete designer revamp but also a royal warrant from Queen Elizabeth II for hospitality services.



63

TRIBAL TEXTILES

In riverside Luang Prabang, Laos, watch skilled women weave, tie-dye, and batik fabric at the Ock Pop Tok workshop, then take a half-day crafting class.

64

BLISS OUT, MOROCCAN STYLE

With its orange-blossom-scented massages, Les Bains de Marrakech provides a luxurious respite from dusty streets and souks.

65

DANCING DERVISHES

Prepare to be moved by the sacred ceremony where Sufi monks whirl to mystical music at Karabaş-i Veli, a cultural heritage center in Bursa, Turkey.

66

PORTUGUESE FEAST

Celia Pedrosa's humor-filled Eat Portugal tour leads visitors to Lisbon's greatest tastes, including the new Mercado da Ribeira.

67

OPAL COUNTRY

Visit gem mines, houses, and bars built underground in Coober Pedy, in northern South Australia, a quirky outpost celebrating its centennial this year.

CRUISES WE CRAVE



68

NILE, EGYPT

Pharaohs' tombs, palm-skirted shores, and tales of Queen Hatshepsut, in a complex land



69

IRRAWADDY, MYANMAR

Temples, jungle-clad banks, rice paddies, and Intha fishermen who ply boat oars with one leg



70

RHINE, GERMANY

Quaint castles and half-timbered towns along a hardworking European shipping lane



71

ANTARCTICA

Gentoo penguins and Weddell seals at the stark, unearthly end of the world



72

NORWAY FJORDS

Impossibly blue water, towering cliffs, and glacier and waterfall views in *Frozen* country

73

WHALES ON MAUI

From January to April, watch whales sans the expensive boat tours by parking yourself on the shores of the Au'au Channel. The humpback hangout makes spotting easy.



74

ROOTSRATED.COM

Type in your outdoor activity of choice, and this nifty website shows where you can do it at your destination. Backpacking near Bozeman, anyone?

75

THE MET, TAMED

Jason Spiehler, co-founder of new guide service Walks of New York, brings the Metropolitan Museum of Art to life, breaking down the massive institution into compelling stories.

76

HOPPING GOOD

Blue Bunny Ice Cream's headquarters in Le Mars, Iowa, features a retro ice cream parlor scooping 70-plus flavors.

77

NATIONAL PARK YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF

About 110 miles east of El Paso, the little-visited

Guadalupe Mountains park encompasses a rare alpine habitat with elk and mountain lions, a fossilized reef, and the highest mountain in Texas.

78

RAISE YOUR GLASS

Szimpla Kert started Budapest's "ruin bar" trend in Hungary when it opened in 2002, and it remains cool as ever with its good food and beer in dilapidated open-air courtyards.

79

FUN IN FUNICULARS

Reach the heady heights of Valparaíso, Chile, on one of the port city's click-clacking, hundred-year-old incline cable railways, or *ascensores*.

80

SURF PERU

Catch the longest left-hand waves in the world from Peru's northern coast, with its white-sand beaches and laid-back resorts. Find surf shops in Máncora and sleepy Punta Sal.





81

Verona Voices

Summertime operas—many of them Italian—sound and look extraordinary from a stone seat in Verona's Roman amphitheater, dating to the first century A.D.

Book us a corner table at the growing number of American fine-dining spots, such as New York City's Dirt Candy and Pittsburgh's Bar Marco, where owners have abolished tips in favor of paying staff living wages.

83

SKY BIKE BUILT FOR TWO

At Mashpi Lodge, in Ecuador, ride a tandem "bike" suspended from a 656-foot-long cable above the Andean cloud forest.

84

THE WHOLE ENCHILADA

Tacos get a lot of love in San Antonio, Texas, but there's nothing we'd rather eat than chicken enchiladas verde at El Mirador in Southtown.

85

SUPER SONICS

Snorkelers in the turquoise waters around Salt Cay, in Turks and Caicos, can hear the plaintive songs of thousands of humpback whales from January to April.

86

LET THEM EAT BLACK FOREST CAKE

Lots of places in Germany serve up this decadent dessert, but Hotel Alemannenhof's version comes with a sweet terrace view of the Black Forest's famed Lake Titisee.

87

UNDERGROUND GALLERY

The Swedish capital Stockholm's subway system amounts to the world's longest art exhibit (68 miles), with works installed throughout.

88

RICHARD III'S NEW GRAVE

The mortal remains of the infamous English king were recently reinterred at Leicester Cathedral.

89

OOMPAH LOOMPAH

Hotel Chocolat's Rabot Estate, in St. Lucia, is part lodging,



NO. 83: SKY BIKING
IN ECUADOR

part tropical Wonka factory, with a chocolate-themed restaurant and tree-to-bar candymaking experiences.

90

CANADA'S ELLIS ISLAND

Genealogy buffs have a field day at the newly expanded Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, in popular port of call Halifax.

91

NORTH AFRICAN HEAT

Harissa, a sinus-clearing paste of red peppers and spices, originated in Tunisia. Add it to bread, soup—or anything, really.

92

PREDAWN TUK TUK

In Cambodia, buzz down

the streets of Siem Reap in complete darkness riding in an auto rickshaw, before landing at Angkor Wat for sunrise over the temples.

93

HOMING IN ON ART

In red-hot Manchester, the new HOME—England's largest contemporary arts center outside of London—hosts experimental theater, films, and edgy exhibits.

94

LITTLE LIBRARIES

A shelf or two of books await readers at take-one, leave-one Little Free Libraries throughout the world. A trail of them between Savannah and Milledgeville, Georgia, honors Flannery O'Connor.

95

OYSTERS IN CANCALE

Europe's highest tides nurture the mollusks in this French port town. Slurp them down along Cancale's crescent-shaped waterfront.

96

HIPSTER JOBURG

Maboneng Precinct, in Johannesburg, South Africa, fills converted warehouses and onetime factories with galleries, cafés, and the best people-watching in town.

97

A BEEF WITH BANGKOK

In Thailand, most restaurants ask if you want food Thai or *farang* (tourist) spicy. Not so Nahm, where its legendary beef salad is served only one way: incendiary.

98

THE CHEESE STANDS ALONE

Throughout Switzerland, and particularly in Alpine areas like Canton Uri, farmers set their cheese out on tables to buy on an honor system.

99

WATER THAT GLOWS

In Mosquito Bay in Vieques, Puerto Rico, nighttime kayak trips glide through glittering water at the world's brightest bioluminescent bay.

100

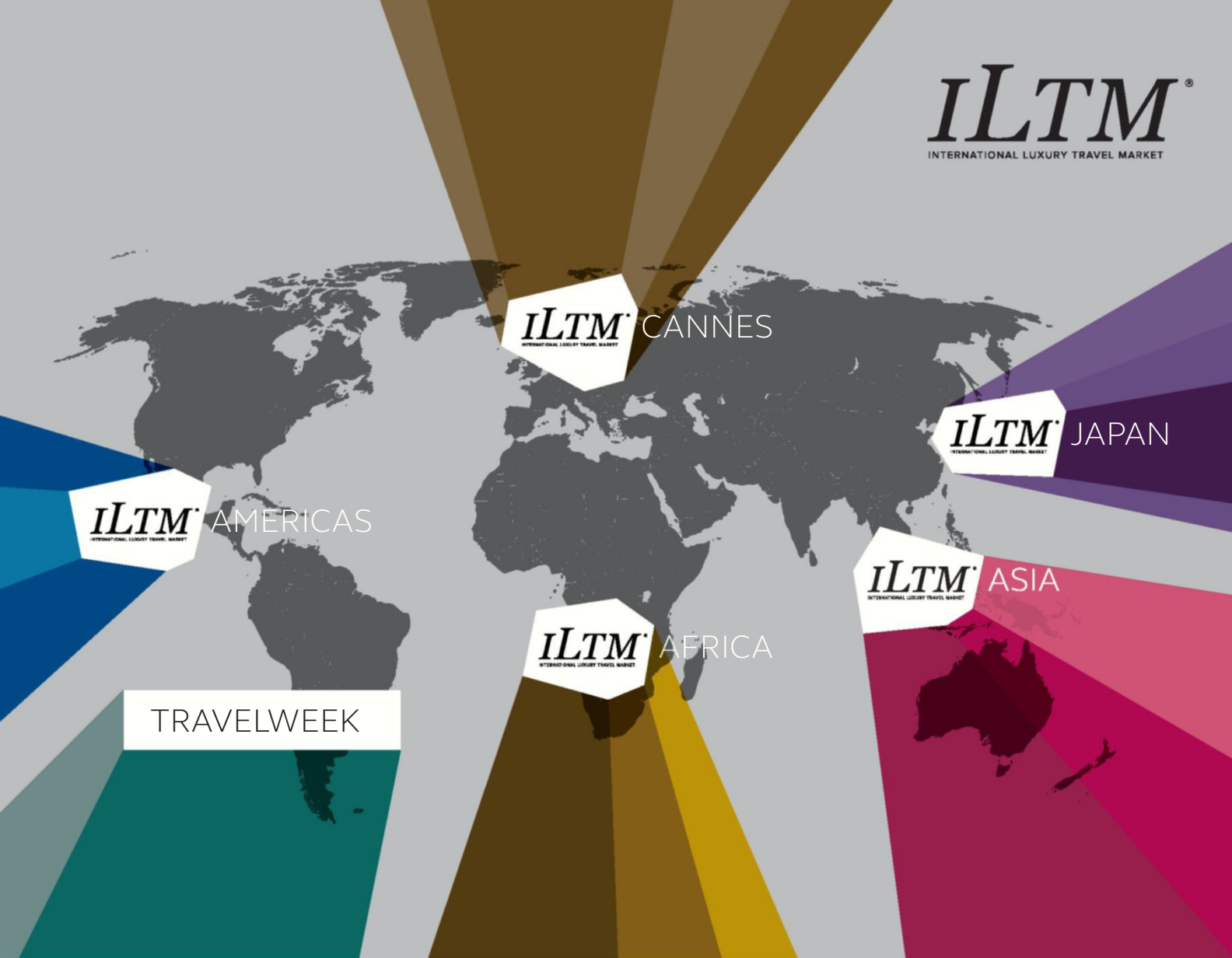
QUINTESENTIAL JAPANESE TEAHOUSE

Near Kyoto's Kodaiji Temple, sit and sip at ultratraditional Rakusho, with its garden, lanterns, and pond of koi fish.

101

GETTING OFF THE GRID

And being wholly in the now.



International Luxury Travel Market is a portfolio of global, regional and specialist luxury travel events. It is where the luxury travel industry meets.

ILTM Americas

Mexico

28 Sept - 1st Oct 2015

Market: North America outbound
Buyers: 100% North America (incl. Mexico)
Exhibitors: 100% International

ILTM

Cannes

30th Nov - 3rd Dec 2015

Market: Global luxury travel
Buyers: 100% International
Exhibitors: 100% International

ILTM Japan

Tokyo

29th Feb - 2nd Mar 2016

Market: Japan inbound/outbound
Buyers: 50% Japan/50% International
Exhibitors: 50% International/50% Japan

Travelweek São Paulo by ILTM

Brazil

3rd - 6th May 2016

Market: Brazil & South America outbound
Buyers: 80% Brazil, 20% Other South America
Exhibitors: 100% International

ILTM Africa

Cape Town

4th - 6th Apr 2016

Market: Africa inbound
Buyers: 100% International
Exhibitors: 100% Africa

ILTM Asia

Shanghai

30th May - 2nd June 2016

Market: China & Asia outbound
Buyers: 40% China, 60% Other Asia Pacific
Exhibitors: 100% International

ILTM invitation only events bring together the best high quality buyers to meet and discover the most luxurious travel experiences.

For more information visit www.iltm.com or call **+44 (0)208 910 7988**



Surfer Ty Finnie
readies for board
action near Santa
Teresa, a village
on Costa Rica's
Pacific coast where
residents and pets
(opposite) relish a
carefree lifestyle.

La Vida Local

A family escapes Manhattan for Costa Rica's mellow coast—and discovers the joy of simple ways.



BY JOHANNA BERKMAN · PHOTOGRAPHS BY KRISTA ROSSOW



My

husband, our three kids, and I are 45 minutes into a bumpy ride along a dusty, winding road on the Nicoya Peninsula of

Costa Rica when I flash back four months. Sitting pretty on a groomed beach on Long Island, my husband, Manny, and I were talking about—well, what does anyone talk about at the end of one vacation but the planning for the next? Tired of spending a fortune on the same conventional family trips everyone else we knew was taking, Manny vowed the next one would be different. We would travel to an unfamiliar place to live like locals, or as close to locals as we could get. Which is how we find ourselves en route to the small seaside settlement called Mal Pais—“bad country,” a name derived from the area’s steep, rugged terrain, not suitable for farming.

Or so the story went.

“This can’t be the restaurant,” says my 11-year-old son as my husband turns our rental jeep onto a sand parking lot. “It looks like a dog run.”

On the far side of a rope, dozens of dogs are running free around a few haphazardly placed plastic tables. Don’t be so narrow-minded, I want to scold him. Only I’m thinking the same thing. Could this really be Banana Beach, the lunch place recommended by Bruno Demarco Quiroz, the young Argentine manager of Hotel Moana, where we’re staying? Then a couple of beers go by on a tray, and my husband all but jumps from the car, commanding us to follow.

There is not enough shade at our table, the food is slow in coming, the kids’ milk is served warm. But rather than complain, my children peel off one by one to gape at the same thing Manny and I, veteran island visitors, can’t help but stare at: the enormous, savage beauty of the unspoiled jungle beach.

Usually when we travel, we have to stick the children in some pricey day camp to grab even five minutes alone. Here there’s nary a counselor, ball, or sand bucket in sight. All that’s left is what’s around us—and our kids become more absorbed in an exploration of this new world than they’ve been anywhere else.



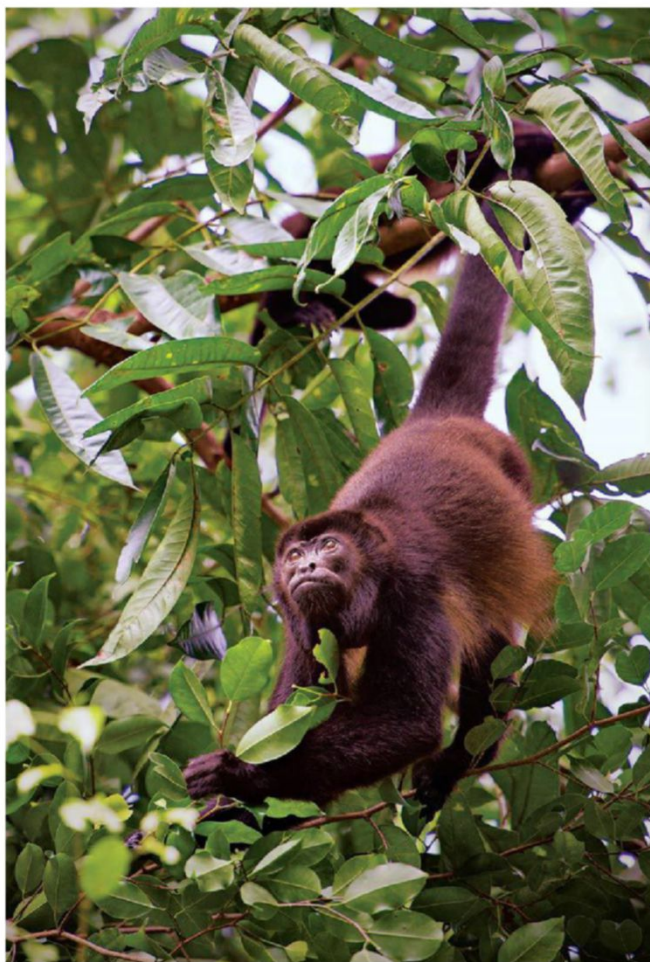
Surfing instructors (right) approach Playa Hermosa, or “beautiful beach,” known for its uncrowded, palm-fringed expanse of sand. Seaside slumber: A beachgoer (left, top) hangs ten in a hammock. Coconuts (left, bottom) offer cool refreshment on hot afternoons.



Horses hotfoot it
along Playa Carmen,
a popular surfing
venue between
Santa Teresa and the
village of Mal Pais.







This means Manny and I are free. Soon we notice we are the only Americans here; the people around us are speaking Spanish, French, German. No one seems to be talking about the stock market, real estate, or the best after-school sports programs. If they are, we can't understand them.

We haven't come to Mal Pais expressly to see wildlife; for that we'd visit Manuel Antonio National Park or some of Costa Rica's many other reserves. Yet by staying at the small Hotel Moana, we now live in close proximity to the natural world, a fact underscored early the following morning when we're awakened by the very loud calls of red-furred howler monkeys. At breakfast, on the lodge's vertiginously cantilevered dining pavilion—featuring, perhaps too literally, drop-dead views of the swirling ocean below—we spy iguanas in the treetops. Vultures circle in the distance.

"So you like Tico style," Quiroz observes. Tico? "Native Costa Rican. You know, laid back, *pura vida*, live and let live." We all nod, and, assured, he gives us his next recommendation: a surfing school at Playa Hermosa, or Beautiful Beach.

To GET TO BEAUTIFUL BEACH, we first must drive through Santa Teresa, a small, hectic town that is crammed with surfboard and sunglass shops in a swirling cloud of dust. People buzz around on mopeds and ATVs, nearly all wearing bandanas over their faces. We drive by a French bakery and an open-air chicken restaurant, where we see whole chickens being cooked on a grill on the ground only a few feet from our passing tires.

The Shaka Surf School is just off the road, but we miss it because it looks like little more than an encampment. Pulling up to it, I find myself wondering about the safety protocols of this "school." But before I can mortify Manny by questioning a staff member, he quickly, perhaps preemptively, hires Brent Newell, a 23-year-old blond transplant from Cocoa Beach, Florida, to coach him and our oldest son.

"Yup, that be the town from *I Dream of Jeannie*," says Newell. True to the spirit of the long-running TV show, he all but makes us disappear by steering us to a through-the-jungle shortcut that he assures us will lead to the beach. Or not.

The path quickly turns into a river of mud. With my husband and 11-year-old off on their lesson with Newell, I'm left to slip-slide along it with no assistance, one younger child hiked up on each hip. Together the three of us pass under a canopy of giant trees bedecked with dozens of mud clumps: termite colonies, a fact I keep to myself. Little brown spider monkeys up in the branches rain nuts down to the ground. Kerplunk! Kerplunk! Then we see it, a beach even bigger, more wild, and more beautiful than the one we visited yesterday, the only commerce on it two men selling coconut water out of the husk.



READ IT, DO IT

For more information on Mal Pais and Santa Teresa, visit www.malpais.net and nicoyapeninsula.com/malpais. For more information on Hotel Moana, visit moanacostarica.com. For more information on the Shaka Surf School, visit www.shakacostarica.com.



Beachy keen: Sunsets draw visitors and locals alike (above) to the soft sand of Playa Carmen. Howler monkeys (opposite, top), native only to Latin America, enjoy air rights at Hotel Moana (opposite, bottom), a small resort tucked into the jungle-blanketed hills of Mal Pais.

By now the kids are getting hungry, so I ask Newell for suggestions. “Koji’s,” he answers. “Awesome sushi. And don’t worry about having the right clothes,” he adds, reading my mind. “This,” he points to his bare chest and board shorts, “is dressed for Costa Rica.”

We descend on Koji’s—a roadside eatery near Playa Hermosa—in our beach cover-ups and flip-flops. The food is amazing and the crowd casual, in a St. Barth’s-beautiful-people sort of way. Still, the vibe is decidedly Tico, with friendly dogs roaming between our tables.

And so begins the routine of our two-week trip, although really it’ll be the opposite of routine: We’ll try something new each day. We will hike, or try to hike, waterfalls near the neighboring town of Montezuma, for which my cautious husband will wear sneakers, unlike the barefoot Ticos. This will cause him to slip and bang his leg, prematurely adjourning our excursion to a beachfront Italian restaurant, Playa de los Artistas, where we will enjoy perhaps the best, and most artfully arranged, meal we’ve ever had. We’ll ride horses Tico style—helmetless—with a 16-year-old guide named Josué, who, as he leads us



through a campground, will warn, “There will be some dogs, do not act scared,” just as a ragtag pack of, oh, 20 or so fierce hounds charge at us and our horses.

Hundreds of ants will invade our room back at the lodge, and one night our air conditioning will not simply break but have a breakdown, spewing balls of hail in our faces. Yet everything will be fixed, and anyway, none of these setbacks

will matter. We will lose track of time, forget what day of the week it is, and, near the end of our stay, discover a beach with tidal pools where hundreds of snails cling to the primordial rock. Our children will play here for hours, splashing among the hermit crabs, starfish, and other sea creatures.

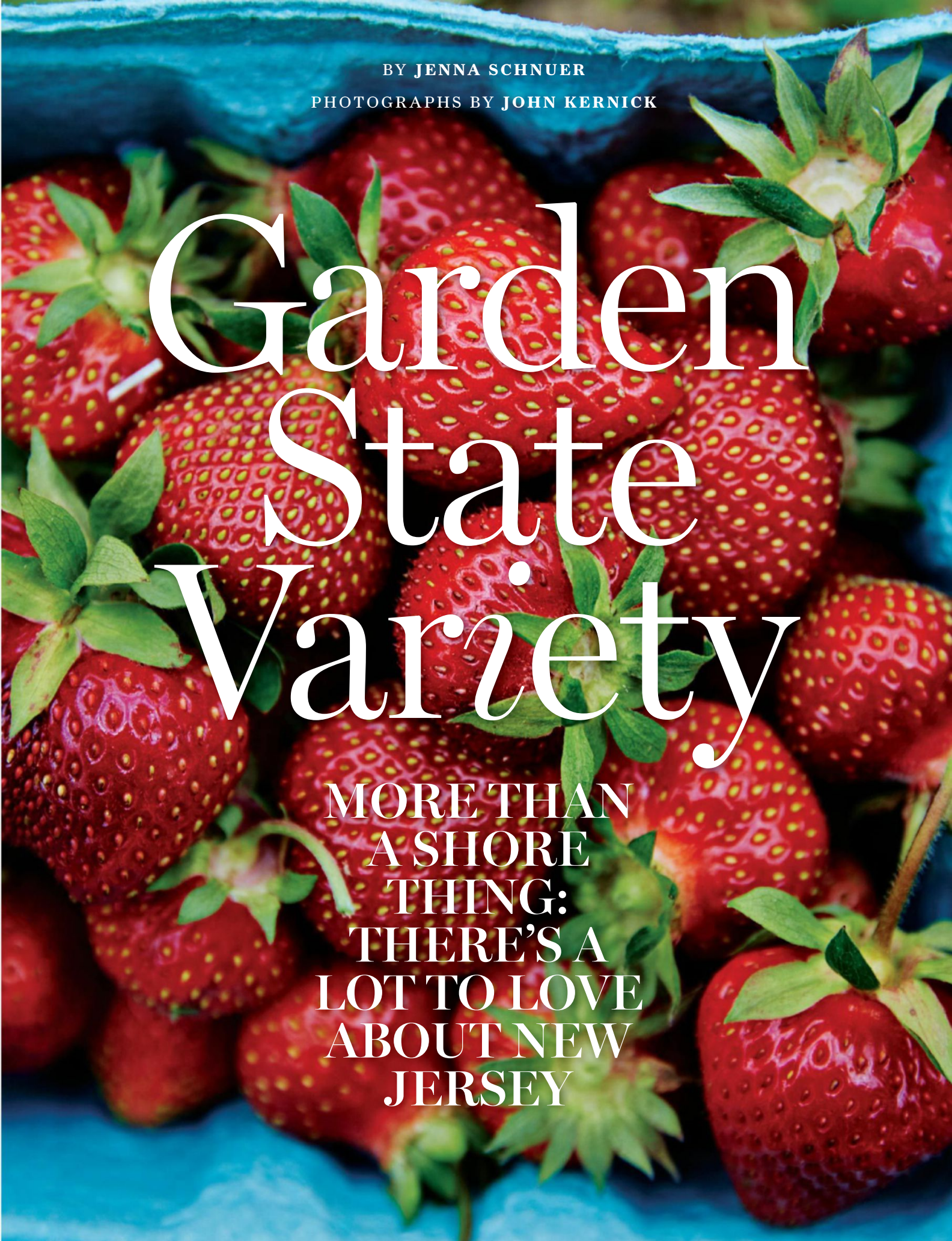
“It’s like SeaWorld,” I tell them.

“No,” my 11-year-old will correct me, “it’s the real one.”

Journalist and fiction writer **JOHANNA BERKMAN** covers family life on her eponymous blog. Photographer and former *Traveler* photo editor **KRISTA ROSSOW** returned from this assignment with a new appreciation for howler monkeys.



Victorian vacationers once flocked to the waterfalls of the Delaware Water Gap, now a national recreation area straddling New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Opposite: New Jersey farm stands brim with fresh strawberries.



BY JENNA SCHNUER

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOHN KERNICK

Garden State Variety

MORE THAN
A SHORE
THING:
THERE'S A
LOT TO LOVE
ABOUT NEW
JERSEY

WE'RE TREATING OUR

kayaks like floating La-Z-Boy recliners, the three of us leaning back, legs stretched out on the decks. Here on the Delaware River, New Jersey lies to our left, Pennsylvania to our right. It's been several minutes since

we've needed to paddle. As Interstate 80 comes into view, we dip our paddles into the water to guide our boats around one of the thick concrete pillars of the highway overpass, the noise of cars rushing overhead crowding out the river sounds. "It's all right here," says my friend Leslie.

Indeed. That is the best and worst of New Jersey summed up. With 39,000 miles of public roadway paving the 8,723-square-mile state, it's easy to get to everything and, it can seem, hard to get away from anything. Though the Garden State ranks 46th by size, it is No. 11 in population. It bests Wyoming's resident count 15 to 1.

My family moved from Brooklyn to suburban Jersey in 1972, just shy of my second birthday. Still, New York City ran three generations deep, and my heart remained across the George Washington Bridge. I rolled my eyes whenever Bruce Springsteen came on the radio. Going "down the shore" was my only consolation prize. Beyond that, Jersey was a punch line and a place to leave. In college, any kid who dared ask of me "what exit?" got a snide smile in return.

As an adult, though, I started to soften my stance. During a stay at my parents' house, a Web search turned up hiking trails at the Tenaflly Nature Center, only ten minutes away. There I discovered trails lined with oak trees, hickories, and some experimental American chestnut seedlings; signs warning of bear activity; and a place out of eyeshot of local roads. Was the joke on me all along?

AFTER AN EIGHT-MILE FLOAT, we pull the kayaks out of the water near the Kittatinny Point Visitor Center in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. Families crowd the beach. Kids in the river blast each other with water cannons and beach balls. Spanish-language pop music blares from huge speakers.

Earlier in the day, the parking lot had been jammed tighter than a mall the day before Christmas, so a park ranger had recommended

parking across I-80 in what was, it turned out, a construction area. In sand-covered flip-flops, Leslie and I squish off along the shoulder of the highway to get my hatchback. Every car in the construction area wears a parking ticket. This is Jersey-style tough love. Even a lazy float comes at a price.

The BBQs and laughter from the river continue at full strength to our right. My friends head home, and I drive four miles up Old Mine Road, trees thick on either side of the road that's at times barely paved. At my campsite in Worthington State Forest, I'm suddenly immersed in a quieter New Jersey, the only human sounds coming from two campsites away and the late afternoon kayakers drifting by on the water below.

It amuses me to see my leaf green tent, where I've spent so many nights, set up here. Camping doesn't mesh with the Jersey I grew up in: the malls, beach houses, highways, and 16-plex movie theaters. It's hard to push away the thought of all those houses and people in nearby towns.

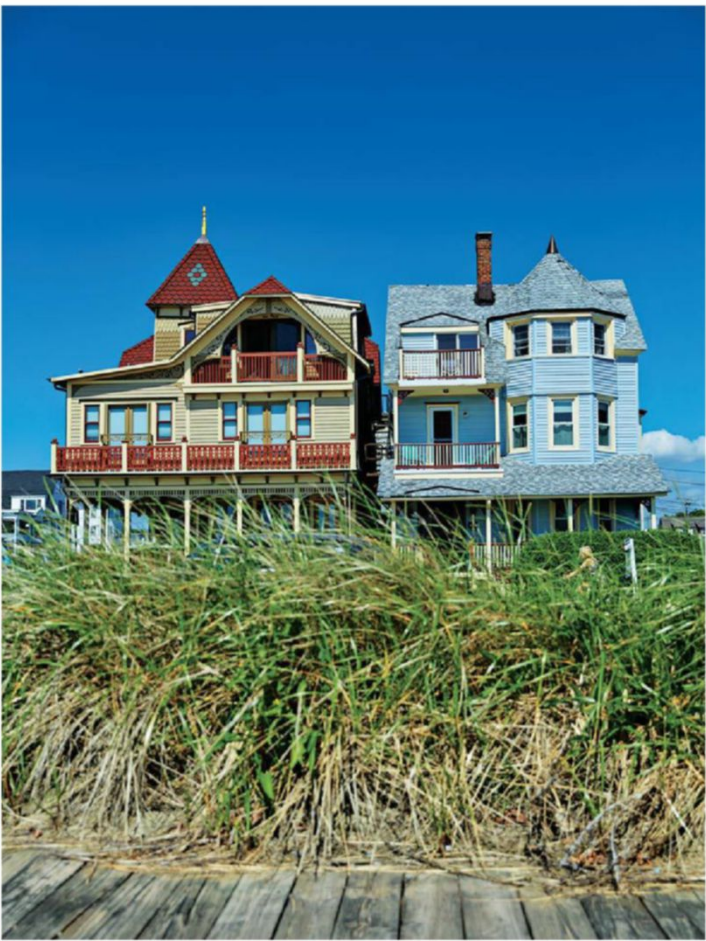
Relaxing back into my chair by the campfire, I look up at the night sky. Here, 74 miles from New York City's light pollution, the stars poke through the darkness. Bullfrogs provide the evening's sound track and, later, the light of my headlamp catches the evening's final entertainment—tiny frogs hopping around, no bigger than my thumbnail. Camping in New Jersey starts to make sense.

By morning, the sky serves up a punishing gray. I consider abandoning my plan to drive to High Point State Park in northwest New Jersey, an hour away. The park's website promises a view of farmlands and forest for miles and miles from the overlook, the state's highest point at 1,803 feet above sea level. The dreary weather gives no such guarantee. Anxiety sets in, as if this experiment of mine can't possibly go right.

Thirty miles from Worthington, on State Highway 94, the landscape opens up to fields, houses here and there, a baseball diamond in the distance. There's room to breathe. I'm moving

Out to pasture (opposite): New Jersey's country roads (bottom) often lead past fields of grazing animals to fruit stands such as Best's in Hackettstown (top right). Nearby Donaldson Farms is popular for its you-pick fields and all-American charm (top left).





along steadily when, finally, the stream of farm stands proves too difficult to resist, and I stop at Lentini's. The baskets around the stand overflow with local corn and tomatoes. After choosing several ears of early season corn, I step up to the counter to pay. Pints of sour cherries, their skins verging on a translucent red, catch my eye. I try one, and the sour makes me wince.

The teen girl behind the counter quickly schools me, gently suggesting that my eye twitch is the stuff of beginners. "I don't think they're sour enough," she says. She likes a full face-puckering sour, but she also offers one regular customer's advice: Roll them in sugar and freeze them.

My passenger seat piled with produce, I drive on. By the time I get to High Point, my steering wheel is sticky with cherry juice. I park in the lot and make the short walk up the road to High Point Monument, a 220-foot obelisk that honors war veterans. There's no use trying to see past the day's fog out to the Pocono Mountains or the Wallkill River Valley. Instead I focus on some bright pink wildflowers. After yesterday's heat, the rain-day air comforts me. I get to my car just as it starts to pour.

Back at the campsite that evening, the rain starts again minutes after I set the corn onto the campfire grate. Though the husks are barely warmed, I rip them off and eat the corn raw. The kernels taste as sweet as the cherries were tart: a main course and dessert all in one.

THE NEXT MORNING, on Route 46 in the hamlet of Delaware, a bright red building adorned with white letters announcing "Marshall's Country Store" looks like a promising place to ask for a breakfast recommendation. The cashier hems and haws over my question, but the woman behind me steps up with a resolute "Uncle Buck's in Belvidere." Ignoring that kind of confidence would be foolish.

Upon settling into a booth at the Original Uncle Buck's Diner, I look over the breakfast menu, deciding to skip the scrapple in favor of the "famous" sausage burger. The restaurant, with its beige and darker beige checkerboard floor and green stools and booths, seems down to earth, making me think there must be something behind the boast.

I'm surprised to hear a familiar voice saying, "I see you found it." It's the woman who recommended the place, Nancy Leeds. We jaw about New Jersey. She is fiercely loyal to the state—and, more so, this northwestern corner. "Everybody thinks Newark, Elizabeth, the refineries," Leeds says. "They don't get to see the beautiful part of New Jersey. And it's here. It's here."

The breakfast defeats me. My guess: It's famous locally as much for its size and calorie count as for its flavor. "You tapping out?" asks the waitress. Though my old favorite, the Jersey Shore, is waiting, I'm sorry to leave. These towns neighboring the Delaware River have grown on me. I wend my way slowly toward Route 31 and the drive south. Along the way, the names of passing roads hint at the area's history: Greenwich Street, Oxford Street, Brass Castle Road.

After several stops on Route 31—including a spur-of-the-moment paddle on a reservoir—a familiar bridge welcomes me to the Garden State Parkway, one of Jersey's main speedways.

The Driscoll Bridge spans the Raritan River and, at its peak, points the car's nose just skyward enough to simulate driving into the clouds.

On this July Tuesday, I luck out. Cars move along, unsnarled by summer beach traffic. Blue skies accented by fluffy clouds tempt me to drive barefoot.

A few hours later, I check into the Hotel Tides in Asbury Park. I slip on flip-flops and walk down to the boardwalk.

The unexpected sounds of drums and tambourines hit my ears, getting louder with every step. It doesn't take long to find the source: Congo Square North, a weekly music gathering of the town's finest hippies, misfits, and parents with toddlers.

A vibrant elderly woman, dressed in a kente cloth tunic, her hair braided through with fabric, holds court from her electric wheelchair. As people orbit around her, nearly everybody stops to say hello. She plays the role of hostess to all—the kids who race through, the tattooed woman cradling a ferret, and, yes, me. I ask how long she's lived in Asbury Park. "My whole life," she replies. "I was a dancer." And, with that, she stands up from her wheelchair and moves to the drumbeats.

I could stay and watch her all night, but I'm craving a touch of my Jersey Shore childhood, an arcade. It's after 5 p.m., so \$15 at the Silverball Museum Arcade buys unlimited play on 80 years of pinball history. My old pal, the KISS-themed machine, doesn't hold up to memory, but I still can't resist Galaga, my favorite video game from the 1980s. The next 40 minutes disappear into a haze of spaceship shoot-'em-up. Earning ninth and tenth spots on the machine's high-score list feels more rewarding than it's sane to admit.

After the arcade's bells and whistles, the boardwalk is steeped in quiet. Just some women laughing. I look down from the boardwalk to see a crab slowly sidestepping along the beach.

One final stop. At long last, it's time to forgive my parents for our decades-ago move to Jersey. I drive south—as far south as Jersey goes—to Cape May Point, where my mom meets me at my beach house rental.

Sitting at a picnic table on the deck of H&H Seafood, the basin in front of us loaded with crabs, I'm rambling on and on about the past days. About the sour cherries and the diners and a storm that soaked me while I was kayaking on a quiet reservoir the day before. My brain is in a New Jersey whirlwind. This change—my new, true love of the place—shocks both my mom and me.

The next evening, my fingers still smarting from crab shell cuts, I go for a bike ride to the Cape May Lighthouse. I pedal past a vineyard, green grapes starting to hang heavy from the vines; a closed roadside stand that promises the owners will be back in the morning with fresh-baked bread; and a white horse, its mane looking like an old man's comb-over.

I think back on the past five days. What exit? The whole lot of them. It's all right here.

JENNA SCHNUER lives in Alaska and previously wrote for *Traveler* about driving in the Dakotas. **JOHN KERNICK** photographed Seville, Spain, for a February/March 2015 feature.

Shore bets (opposite, clockwise from top right): Jersey resort pleasures are as timeless as the colorful Victorian houses around Asbury Park—whether watching the sun set over sand in Cape May, digging into a basket of steamed shrimp at H&H Seafood, or pulling up a stool to a classic video arcade game at the retro Silverball Museum Arcade.

THE INSIDER

New Jersey, From Parks to Shore

A TOP-TO-BOTTOM drive of New Jersey shows off the compact state's big personality and diverse outdoor experiences—from farm stands to wineries, beaches to hiking trails. Camping trips and shore escapes are a natural fit for long weekends.

WHERE TO STAY

The **Wooden Duck Bed & Breakfast** sits 24 miles east of the Delaware Water Gap visitors center. On a ten-acre estate, the grounds feature rolling hills that plenty of deer call home. Keep your camera close at hand. From \$139.

On the Jersey Shore, Asbury Park's **Hotel Tides** welcomes guests with rotating art exhibits in the lobby and rain showerheads (especially refreshing after a day on the beach). The hotel's pool is open to the public for \$5 a day and doubles as a gathering spot, while the small spa provides respite. From \$120.

Numerous B&Bs occupy Cape May's historic homes. The colonial-style **Eldredge House** offers a rarity for the area: single-night bookings during the summer high season. The owner also gives out gift certificates good at several area breakfast spots. From \$135.

WHERE TO EAT

Don't dare leaving New Jersey without eating at a diner—they're the stuff of late-night legends for those who grew up here. Jersey diners range from classic silver-sided stand-alones to places far quirkier, such as the **Double S Diner**. First opened in 1955,



this spot in Wantage off Route 23 reopened in the fall of 2012 after a fire that gutted the place. Walk through the door—and the Elvis paraphernalia-filled vestibule—and quickly become part of the

family. Waitress Betty Varley recommends the corned beef hash. They also do a fine BBQ.

Housed in Cape May Point's old general store, the **Red Store** warrants repeat visits for chef and owner Lucas Manteca's menu starring locally sourced ingredients. The food's good enough to dress up for, but nobody will mind if you come in flip-flops.

WHAT TO WATCH

New Jersey's signature TV show, *The Sopranos*, took viewers on a tour of the state—from Tony Soprano's house in North Caldwell to Holsten's, a real Bloomfield restaurant that provided the backdrop for the series' famous final scene.

ATLAS



Stay in your car at New Jersey gas stations; it's the only state that completely bans self-service fuel pumps (though state lawmakers have recently taken up the debate).

Each October, Chatsworth celebrates cranberries—a Jersey staple since the late 19th century—at a festival centered on the historic White Horse Inn.

New Jersey claims to have hosted the first organized game of baseball, in 1845, as well as pro basketball's official tip-off, in 1896.

LOCAL FLAVOR

ATTITUDE ON TAP

Love for Jersey steers Flying Fish brewery's Exit Series, boasting the tagline "Proudly brewed in New Jersey. You got a problem with that?" The Somerdale-based brewery named the nine beers in its series for exits on the New Jersey Turnpike while flavoring each with the personality of the area. Exit 3 is a honey ale brewed with one of the state's most beloved crops: blueberries. Exit 1? Bayshore Oyster Stout, a fine drink pairing with its namesake seafood.



FREE TRAVEL INFORMATION

A listing of advertisers who would like to offer you additional information about their products and services



Circle the number on the attached card and mail or fax to 888-847-6035

Travel the U.S.A.

(circle 500 or text TROCT 500 to 41411)

1. Alaska
From breathtaking glaciers and mountains to wildlife, you don't want to miss Alaska. Get your FREE Alaska Official State Vacation Planner today!
2. Destination Missoula
Nestled in the Rocky Mountains, Missoula, Montana is replete with natural beauty and cultural vibrancy to make your next vacation unforgettable.
3. Fairbanks, Alaska
Be inspired by the light of the aurora borealis. Boost your energy under the midnight sun. Feel the warmth of Fairbanks, Interior and Arctic Alaska.
4. Long Island, Suffolk County
Amazing adventure or relaxing vacation. Beaches, Wine Country, Champion Golf & more. Free Guide: 877-386-6654, ext 280.
5. Scottsdale Convention & Visitors Bureau
With nearly 75 choices ranging from posh to playful, Scottsdale's hotels and resorts welcome you with accommodations that are as individual as you are.
6. South Dakota Tourism
South Dakota is My Great Place. Six national parks and monuments including Mount Rushmore National Memorial. It's beyond amazing.
7. The Great State of Texas
Take a tour of Texas. From fair weather fun to friendly locals, we've got it all. Order your Texas State Travel Guide and start planning today.
8. Western Montana's Glacier Country
Make plans now to explore Western Montana's Glacier Country. Free Travel Guide.
9. Whitefish, Montana
Explore Whitefish, A vibrant mountain town nestled at the edge of Glacier Nat'l Park, where spectacular nature meets authentic community. 877-862-3548.
10. Wyoming: Forever West
Experience a state of nonstop adventure. Come Discover. Room Free.

Best Fall Trips

(circle 135 or text TROCT 135 to 41411)

11. Greensboro Area Convention & Visitors Bureau
Play in the Center of it All — Greensboro, NC. Immerse yourself in Greensboro's family oriented attractions & explore over 200 years of rich history!
12. Lake George Area in New York's Adirondacks
Easy to get to. Easy to Enjoy! FREE Fall Travel Pak.
13. South County Tourism Council
Share our good nature...miles of beaches, forests, wildlife preserves and conservation areas. Free South County Vacation Guide. 800-548-4662.
14. The Outer Banks of North Carolina
OBX Marks the Spot for your next adventure. 100 miles of beaches, history and unique adventures. Get your free travel guide today.

Hot Spot Travel: Best of California

(circle 134 or text TROCT 134 to 41411)

15. Catalina Island — One hour off SoCal coast. 866-449-5807
16. Oceanside — San Diego's North Shore. 866-292-9224
17. San Mateo County/Silicon Valley — S.F. Bay Area. 800-288-4748



Text TROCT followed by the category # to 41411

18. Sonoma County — Genuine Wine Country. 800-576-6662
19. Ventura/Channel Islands — One hour from L.A. 800-483-6204
20. Visalia — Gateway to Sequoia and Kings Canyon. 559-334-0141

Hot Spot Travel: Best of the Pacific Northwest

(circle 133 or text TROCT 133 to 41411)

21. Cascade Loop — Washington's Ultimate Road Trip. 509-662-3888
22. Tualatin Valley — Oregon's Washington County. 800-537-3149

Travel the World

(circle 503 or text TROCT 503 to 41411)

23. Aurora Expeditions
Small-ship cruises to Antarctica, Arctic, Scotland, Alaska & the Kimberley Coast. NEW! Small-group trekking adventures to Nepal, Bhutan & Patagonia.
24. Le Boat
Discover Europe's best kept travel secret! Glide through Europe's canals & waterways on your own personal cruiser. Best of all, no experience required!
25. New Zealand Trails 'World Heritage Walking Tour'
The best of the best in New Zealand on a friendly small group tour with expert guides, comfortable accommodation and great cuisine.
26. Quivertree Family Expeditions
Custom-designed family adventures to destinations world wide, created by families who love exploring for families who love to explore.
27. World Expeditions 800-567-2216

Hotels & Resorts

(circle 504 or text TROCT 504 to 41411)

28. America's Best Value Inn
A family of 1,000 inns, hotels and suites throughout North America, offering hometown comfort, quality and service at an exceptional value.
29. Aston Hotels & Resorts
Spacious accommodations in Hawaii with comprehensive resort amenities to fit any lifestyle, and budget.
30. Fogo Island Inn, Newfoundland Canada
The Inn sits on an island, off an island, on one of the four corners of the earth. An architectural gem, it's located along Iceberg Alley.
31. Kasbah Du Toubkal
A Unique Lodge of the World—Kasbah Du Toubkal is 40 miles from Marrakech, a day from N Africa's highest mountain. +33 549 050135
32. Lizard Island
Like Nowhere Else. Northernmost island resort on the Great Barrier Reef. Understated luxury, beauty in a tropical backdrop.
33. Longitude 131
Australia's most exclusive outback encounter. Call +61 2 9918 4355.
34. Rubondo Island Camp
35. Sabi Sabi
Earth Lodge, with 13 spectacular suites, offers guests the ultimate in luxury accommodation, excellent cuisine and amazing wildlife experiences.
36. Southern Ocean Lodge
Southern Ocean Lodge is Australian luxury travel defined. Call +61 2 9918 4355.



For instant access, visit us online at nqt-travelinfo.com

37. The Brando
A unique luxury resort on French Polynesia's private island of Tetiaroa—an atoll surrounding a lagoon 30 miles north of Tahiti.
38. Three Camel Lodge
Explore the mysteries of the Gobi Desert while staying at the perfect place to experience the heart of Mongolia!
39. Tswalu Kalahari Reserve
Expect sightings of some extraordinary wildlife. 2 luxury camps accommodate 30 guests who dictate the itinerary.
40. Zhiwa Ling Hotel

Cruising

(circle 505 or text TROCT 505 to 41411)

41. Delfin Amazon Cruises
Enjoy a Luxury Expedition Amazon Cruise in the Peruvian rain forest. Indulge yourself in a private experience on board our 4-cabin cruise ship.

Traveler Getaways

(circle 507 or text TROCT 507 to 41411)

42. Active Adventures New Zealand
Small group hiking, biking, and kayaking tours in incredible destinations by New Zealand's most experienced, trusted operator.
43. Active Himalayas
A trekking adventure that will knock your socks off! Hike Annapurna Sanctuary, Everest Base Camp or the Forbidden Kingdom of Lo in the Mustang region.
44. Africa Adventure Company
The Africa Adventure Company is your passport for a safari trip to "Africa's Top Wildlife Countries." There is no better time to venture out than now!
45. African Safari Company 800-414-3090
46. Asia Transpacific Journeys 800-642-2742
47. Boundless Journeys 800-941-8010
48. Costa Rica Experts
Create your custom itinerary to Costa Rica. 800-827-9046.
49. Deeper Africa 888-658-7102
50. Frontiers North Adventures
Specializing in authentic adventures in Canada's North. 800-663-9832.
51. Gondwana Ecotours 877-587-8479
52. MIR Corporation 800-424-7289
53. Mountain Lodges of Peru
First class lodge-to-lodge trek along the Salkantay Inca Trail to Machu Picchu (7 days-6 nights Cusco to Cusco).
54. Pacific Delight Tours
For 44 years, we have been the industry leader in bringing the discovery and excitement of China and Asia to our customers.
55. Vacances Sinorama Inc. 888-577-9918

56. World Spree
Asia Travel Specialist. Small groups, great guides, nice hotels, good meals, once-in-a-lifetime experience for discerning travelers. Dare to Compare!



BEST FALL TRIPS 2015



South County, Rhode Island

Share our good nature...hike miles of forested trails under the full cover of the clearest night skies on the East Coast. Paddle scenic inland waterways flowing directly into the Atlantic Ocean, giving way to 100 miles of pristine shoreline. In September, dazzling birds throughout South County begin their migrating adventure to southern wintering grounds. The Audubon Society's Mushrooming, Owling, and Elegant Dining on September 11th, 12th, and 25th at Maxwell May's Lakeside Cabin, and the Total Lunar Eclipse at Frosty Drew Observatory on September 27th invite you to enjoy one of nature's best kept secrets—South County.

Order your Free Southern RI Vacation Guide!

SouthCountyRI.com 800.548.4662



The Outer Banks of North Carolina

Our beaches aren't just for summer. In fall, the water stays warm and the big fish move in, making it a surf fisher's paradise. The sounds are perfect for kiteboarding and kayaking and the air is just right for hang gliding. Visit the site where man left the ground at the Wright Brothers National Memorial. Drive the Outer Banks Scenic Byway and watch for migratory birds at Pea Island and Alligator River National Wildlife Refuges. Or just sit back and relax and feed your soul.

Get your free travel guide and find what feeds your #OuterbanksSoul.

outerbanks.org 877.629.4386



Fabulous Fall, Be a Part of It!!

Explore new Adirondack Craft Beverage Trail, sample local products. Hot Air Balloon Festival, World's Largest Garage Sale, Car Show, Jazz Fest, Fright Fest, Triathlon, Boat Show, Harvest Festivals, Oktoberfests! Shop, cruise, raft, relax. Easy to get to. Easy to enjoy!

VisitLakeGeorge.com 800.365.1050 X541



Play in the Center of It All

With a great selection of 135 attractions, the fun never ends in Greensboro! Centrally located in North Carolina's picturesque heartland, Greensboro is the perfect place to relax and be immersed in entertainment. Play in the center of it all!

VisitGreensboroNC.com 800.344.2282



SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION

NEXT STOP



Florida's Most Natural Beaches Are All Yours

Relax and reconnect with nature on The Beaches of Fort Myers & Sanibel. Family time can be as adventurous or as leisurely as you want it to be. Long, lovely beaches are the big draw here, featuring shells galore, birds to spot, and sunsets that paint the sea in glorious colors. With 50 miles of sun-blessed beach to choose from, you'll have no problem finding your own soft, white-sand playground. FortMyers-Sanibel.com



Sun and Culture

Sarasota County is for the green at heart. Don't miss miles of hiking, biking, canoeing, birding, and nature trails. DiscoverNaturalSarasota.org



LONGBOAT KEY | SARASOTA | LIDO KEY | SIESTA KEY | VENICE | CAPE KEY | MANASOTA KEY | ENGLISHTOWN | NORTH PORT



Look Below the Surface

Deep within Key Largo, you'll discover things that may surprise you. From the Everglades to John Pennekamp State Park, there's more depth in Key Largo. fla-keys.com/keylargo



Fancy and Fun

Northeast Florida's Amelia Island offers a unique southern elegance along the beautiful Atlantic Ocean. Discover her natural beauty and wildlife with an array of outdoor activities. Come make memories. AmeliaIsland.com



The Unforgettable Coast

The stunning white-sand beaches and emerald waters offer a unique and authentic old Florida experience. Plus, encounter sea turtles and rare birds, explore primordial springs, and enjoy world-class sportfishing. MexicoBeach.com



VISITFLORIDA.COM

For more information, go to nationalgeographic.com/visitflorida.


TRAVELER

GETAWAYS

THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE FOR PLANNING YOUR NEXT JOURNEY



First-Class Travel at Bargain Prices

12-Day Incredible India With Tiger Reserve from \$1,799 air inclusive
22-Day Grand Tour of India from \$3,999 air inclusive

Dream Itineraries, Wonderful Hotels, Great Guides, Local Cuisine, People-to-People Experiences. We invite you to search and compare, defying anyone to do it better!

With great passion we design our itineraries, select our hotels, train our tour guides, arrange our meals of local flavors, and provide an up-close look at locals and their daily life—just as a first-time traveler would do it for themselves, if they knew how.

Knowing our destinations inside out, we challenge ourselves to create life-changing journeys at a very affordable price.

worldspree.com 866.652.5656



New Zealand 'World Heritage Walking Tour'

We know it can be overwhelming looking for your New Zealand 'Trip of a Lifetime.' So we have put it all together in one very special experience—our 'World Heritage Walking Tour,' and we reckon this is the very best of our country and the only way to see it!

As you explore the most spectacular walks, scenery, and activities in the land, our Kiwi guides will look after you every step of the way. You'll love our small, super-friendly groups, four-star accommodations, and fabulous food and wine.

SO...let's talk about your 'Trip of a Lifetime' now!

newzealandtrails.com 877.796.0416



Alaska Railroad

The Alaska Railroad offers daily summer service to Anchorage, Seward, Fairbanks, Denali Park, and more. With onboard dining, knowledgeable guides, and stunning views of backcountry Alaska, we think you'll agree the best way to see Alaska is on the Railroad.

Alaskarailroad.com 800.544.0552



The World's Best Light Show

Hunt the aurora borealis on this one-of-a-kind ecotour. After viewing the northern lights, soak in a steamy hot spring, savor Alaskan seafood, have a drink at an ice bar, try curling, and dogsled through a winter wonderland. Alaska at its best!

GondwanaEcotours.com/Lights 877.587.8479



Hometown Comfort and Great Value

A family of over 1,000 inns, hotels, and suites located throughout North America, Americas Best Value Inn (including Canadas Best Value Inn and Value Inn Worldwide) offers guests hometown comfort, quality, and service at an exceptional value. Convenient locations and a variety of accommodations make Americas Best Value Inn ideal for the leisure and business traveler. Guests enjoy free high-speed Internet, HBO, and continental breakfast at most locations. Join the free Value Club loyalty program for instant rewards, such as a 15 percent discount on future stays, free room upgrades, late check-out, and discounts on travel products and services.

Americasbestvalueinn.com 888.315.2378



Discover Europe's Best-Kept Travel Secret

If you've experienced one, you know—a vacation with Le Boat is a European journey unlike any other today. Explore aboard your very own cruiser and glide effortlessly down sun-dappled canals, anticipation building as new gems await around every corner. Follow the cobble streets of small villages to outdoor markets with local delicacies. Sample the wine of a local vineyard, the bouquet tantalizes as you're surrounded by the very vines from which the grapes originated. Experience a different era as you walk through ancient castles and historic sites. Whatever part of Europe you wish to discover becomes all the more remarkable on a Le Boat cruiser. Best of all, no experience is necessary.

Leboat.com 844.485.1083



15-Day Imperial China and Yangtze River Package

Indulge in a 15-day luxurious China cruise vacation. Your itinerary includes Beijing, Xi'an, Shanghai, and the Yangtze River with five-star hotels and a veranda stateroom on board a four-night cruise. Only \$1,899 per person, the best price you'll ever get! Reserve now!

sinoramaholidays.com/ngt16.html 888.577.9918



Ecuador: Access a Rare Piece of a Fleeting World

Get up close and personal with the tropical plants and exotic animals of the Amazon Rainforest as you explore it by foot, kayak, motorized canoe, and plane with native guides. On the way there, discover Quito and the town of Banos with its 60 waterfalls.

GondwanaEcotours.com/Amazon 877.587.8479



Custom Costa Rica Adventures

With more than 27 years of experience, Costa Rica Experts makes the difference between a good trip and a lifetime memory. Custom-design your vacation to include adventure, wildlife, and pristine beaches. Explore rain forests, jungles, and volcanoes.

Costaricaexperts.com 800.827.9046



6-Day Touch of Japan Escapade Experience

Follow us to Tokyo on an exciting race through modernity and non-stop innovation. Revel in the unforgettable beauty of Mount Fuji and its surrounding countryside. Complete your journey with a stay in spiritual Kyoto filled with sacred Japanese traditions.

pacificdelighttours.com/japan2015.aspx 800.221.7179



I Heart Oxford

BY EMILY AINSWORTH

An anthropologist, photographer, and National Geographic young explorer, Emily Ainsworth is a native of Oxford, England. “The city is a place of idiosyncratic charm where bells chime off hours and ancient alleyways lead to nowhere,” says Ainsworth. Here she shares her favorite things to do in the City of Dreaming Spires.

The first place I take visitors is...

The Turf Tavern, a 13th-century pub hidden amid a maze of alleys. On chilly nights, warm yourself in front of the lit braziers in the courtyard; marshmallows and toasting forks are available at the bar.

You can tell if someone is from my city if...

They're wearing Wellington boots (top) and talking enthusiastically about Aristotle.

For the best view of my city...

Head to the top of St. Mary's church tower. The medieval spiral staircase, with its 127 steps, comes with a health warning, but the panoramic views are worth it.

The dish that best represents my city is...

Sausage (bangers) and mash, and real ale is our signature drink.

My city's best museum is...

The Pitt Rivers Museum for its artifacts from around the world. Don't miss the shrunken heads and the witch that's supposedly trapped in a bottle on display.

Bet you didn't know...

Oxford claims to be home to the oldest ham in the world; it hangs proudly in the window of the M. Feller and Sons butchers stall in the Covered Market (a good place to buy authentic souvenirs).

Locals know to skip...

The chain stores and crowds of Cornmarket Street; check out the independent shops in Jericho instead.

This could only happen in my city...

“Trashing”—when university students leaving their exams are ritually showered with champagne, fish guts, and trifle.

■ TO SUBMIT YOUR OWN “I HEART MY CITY,” GO TO NATGEOTRAVEL.COM.

WEBSITE: natgeotravel.com E-MAIL: travel_talk@ngs.org LETTERS: *National Geographic Traveler*, 1145 17th St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. Include address, e-mail, and daytime telephone number. Letters may be shortened or edited for publication. MASTHEAD: travel.nationalgeographic.com/masthead. SUBSCRIBER SERVICES: ngtservice.com, 1-800-NGS-LINE (647-5463). *Traveler* is also available for the iPad through iTunes. Find *Traveler* at magfinder.magnetdata.net. Follow us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and Pinterest.

Volume XXXII, Number 6. *National Geographic Traveler* (ISSN 0747-0932) is published eight times a year (February, April, May, June, August, October, November, December) by the National Geographic Society, 1145 17th St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. \$19.95 a year, \$5.99 a copy. Periodicals postage paid at Washington, D.C., and at additional mailing offices. SUBSCRIBER: If the Postal Service alerts us that your magazine is undeliverable, we have no further obligation unless we receive a corrected address within two years. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *National Geographic Traveler*, P.O. Box 62134, Tampa, FL 33662-2134. In Canada, agreement number 40063649, return undeliverable Canadian addresses to *National Geographic Traveler*, P.O. Box 4412 STA A, Toronto, Ontario M5W 3W2. We occasionally make our subscriber names available to companies whose products or services might be of interest to you. If you prefer not to be included, you may request that your name be removed from promotional lists by calling 1-800-NGS-LINE (647-5463). To prevent your name from being made available to all direct mail companies, contact: Mail Preference Service, c/o Direct Marketing Association, P.O. Box 9008, Farmingdale, NY 11735-9008. Printed in the U.S.A.



Stay Unique.

Distinctive. Sustainable. Unforgettable.

National Geographic presents a growing collection of hotels that treat you to one-of-a-kind experiences while treating our planet with care and respect. From the African savanna to a gem of an island in the Tasman Sea, National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World are set in some of the planet's most magnificent places—and they're spectacular in their own right, too. Each of our 38 properties offer authentic experiences away from the crowds, world-class services and amenities, and unique access to local cultures and spectacular sites.



UNIQUE LODGES OF THE WORLD™

Visit natgeolodges.com/unforgettable or call (888) 701-5486 to reserve your stay.



GoPro.
Be a **HERO**.

JEB CORLISS
Photo by: Jeb Corliss



THIS IS YOUR LIFE. **BE A HERO.**



OVER **60** ACCESSORIES +
APP & SOFTWARE

